

The Sacred Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



✱ 4

story: ISAO MIURA
art: KOTARO YAMADA



I'M GOING
TO USE THE
SWORDS
YOU MAKE
TO PROTECT
EVERYBODY
IN THIS
WHOLE CITY!



OH,
AND I
GUESS
YOU,
TOO!

AND
MR.
BASIL...

I'M
GONNA
PROTECT
UNCLE
HANNIBAL
...



LUKE
AINSWORTH!

SO
MAKE ME
THE BEST
SWORD
THERE
EVER
WAS...

The Sacred Blacksmith
聖剣の刀鍛冶 4
ブラックスミス





Volume 4

*Art by
Kotaro Yamada*

*Story by
Isao Miura*

*Character Design by
Luna*

登場人物紹介

 *Character*



Luke Ainsworth

A proficient swordsman who uses an unusual blade called a "katana." Pessimistic and world-weary, he runs his own smithy.



Cecily Campbell

A young lady knight who is part of the Knight Guard, charged with defending the independent trade city of Housman. Ex-nobility, she has a strong sense of justice.



Aria

The "Demon Blade" of wind. A demon "born" at the end of the Valbanill War, she normally walks about as a human woman. However, she can turn into a rapier at will.



Lisa

The assistant who lives and works at Luke's smithy. Innocent and carefree, she loves talking with everyone. She says she is only three years old.

Other Characters



Hannibal Quasar

Captain of the Third District Knight Guard, and Cecily's commander.



Hugo Housman

The elected mayor of the independent trade city of Housman, where Cecily and Luke live.

Charlotte E. Firebisher



A princess of the Empire, who came looking for Demon Blades. Is now a fugitive from the Empire.

Evadne



A Demon Blade who traveled with Charlotte. She can create black flame and turn into a flamberge.

Margot / Doris / Penelope



Charlotte's three retainers and Demon Blade wielders. They went with their mistress into exile.

あらすじ *Story*

聖剣の刀鍛冶 *The Sacred Blacksmith*

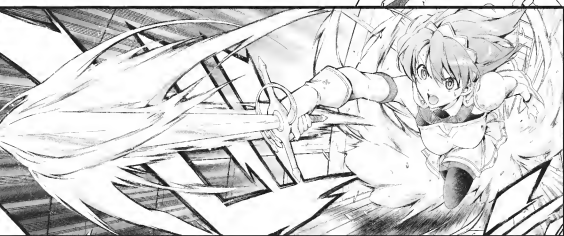
Charlotte, a princess of the Empire, bears Evadne, another Demon Blade like Aria. Charlotte declares that she came to Housman to collect other Demon Blades. However, she and her three retainers wind up spending time at Cecily's house, while the Mayor sends a message to the Empire to confirm whether she really is who she claims to be.



WHY THE HELL DO WE HAVE TO WEAR THIS FOOLY CRAP?!

SHUT UP MEET!

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!!



The message returned from the Empire declares Charlotte and her three companions to be traitors and demands for them to be turned over to Imperial forces for punishment. The Mayor suggests that the four girls seek asylum in the Militant Nation. Charlotte wavers, but after a battle-filled "consultation," Cecily forcibly convinces her to escape, giving up any claim to Imperial blood.



WE'VE GOT NO BUSINESS WITH YOU ANYMORE!

JUST HAND OVER THE DRAGON BLADE!



REACH FOR THE TRUTH.

HOLD THE WIND IN THESE HANDS...

One day, Cecily and Aria are attacked by three mysterious girls, all of whom wield Demon Blades. Unable to stand against them, Cecily almost loses Aria. However, Luke arrives with the girls' mistress, Charlotte, just in time to rescue both Cecily and Aria.

Decades ago, a great war raged across the continent. Called the "Valbanill War," it saw the widespread use of powerful Demon Pacts.

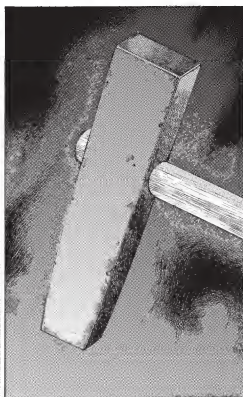
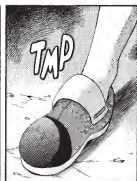
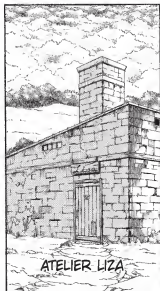
Forty-four years later, a young lady knight named Cecily Campbell meets a mysterious blacksmith named Luke Ainsworth, and asks him to forge for her a sword.

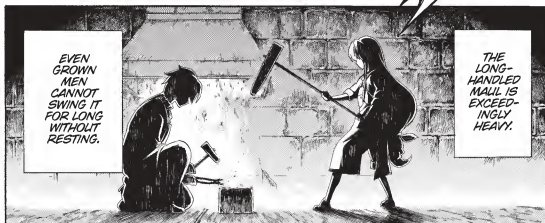


I DON'T THINK I LIKE YOU.

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 鍛 冶





EVEN
GROWN
MEN
CANNOT
SWING IT
FOR LONG
WITHOUT
RESTING.

THE
LONG-
HANDLED
MAIL IS
EXCEED-
INGLY
HEAVY.



THAT
WAS THE
TECHNIQUE
SHE WAS
TAUGHT
AND HAS
PRACTICED
FOR THREE
LONG
YEARS.

SWING
ACCURATELY.
CORRECTLY,
LAND THE
MAIL'S
HEAD
EXACTLY
WHERE YOU
WANT IT
TO GO.

ON THE
UP-SWING,
YOUR WHOLE
BODY RISES,
STRETCHING
ARMS HIGH
ABOVE THE
HEAD. ON THE
DOWN-SWING,
YOUR WHOLE
BODY SINKS
INTO THE
BLOW.



YET LISA
PUSHES HER
SMALL BODY
ON BRAVELY,
SWINGING THE
HEAVY MAUL
SLOWLY,
STEADILY,
FOR HOURS
ON END.

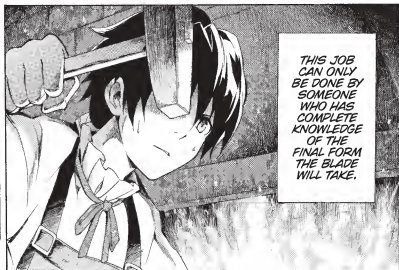


SHE IS
DRENCHED
IN SWEAT.
HER
BREATHING
IS LABORED.
HER ARMS
ARE HEAVY
WITH
FATIGUE.

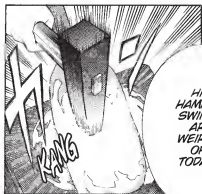


IN
BETWEEN
HER
SWINGS,
HE USES
A HAMMER
TO MAKE
SMALL
ADJUST-
MENTS TO
THE BAR'S
SHAPE.

ON THE
OTHER SIDE,
LUKE HOLDS
THE HOT IRON
BAR STILL
WITH TONGS,
PREVENTING IT
FROM FLYING
OFF WITH THE
FORCE OF
THE MAUL'S
BLOWS.



THIS JOB
CAN ONLY
BE DONE BY
SOMEONE
WHO HAS
COMPLETE
KNOWLEDGE
OF THE
FINAL FORM
THE BLADE
WILL TAKE.



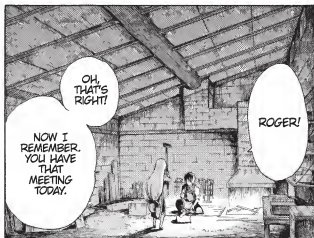
HIS
HAMMER
SWINGS
ARE
WEIRDLY
OFF
TODAY...



I WONDER
IF THERE'S
SOMETHING
BUGGING
LUKE.



LISA.



OH,
THAT'S
RIGHT!

NOW I
REMEMBER.
YOU HAVE
THAT
MEETING
TODAY.

ROGER!



I'M GOING
OUT THIS
AFTERNOON.
WATCH THE
SHOP.

Y-YES,
SIR?

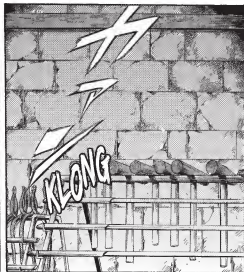


I HAVE
THAT TO
GO TO,
AS
WELL.

TRUE...



LISA WIPED
ALL
EXPRESSION
FROM HER
FACE,
SWINGING
THE MAUL
STEADILY,
MECHANICALLY.



NOT ONE
THING
SHE
COULD
GIVE TO
HIM.

THERE
WAS
NOTHING
SHE
COULD DO.



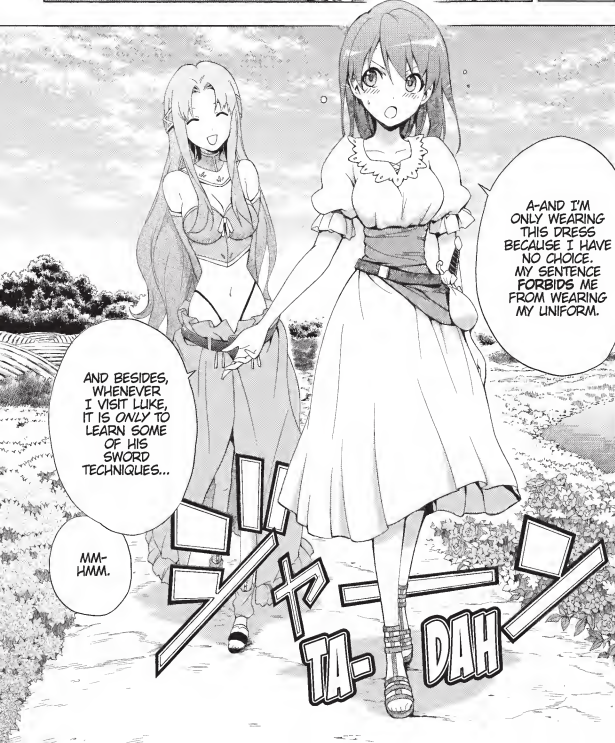
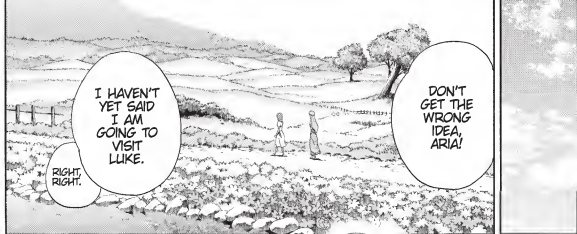
*I'M
JUST A
DEMON...*

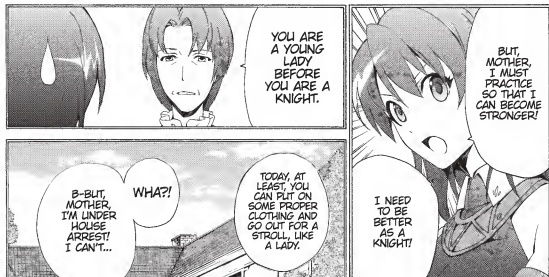
*I'M NOT
EVEN
HUMAN.*

*I MEAN,
I'M NOT
HER.*

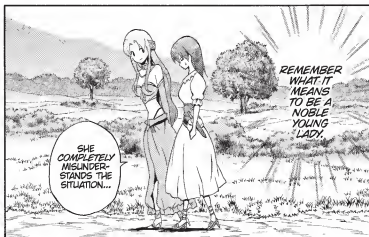


*A
POOR
COPY
OF
HER.*











IF...
IF
SOMEONE
SEES ME,
WHAT
WILL THEY
SAY?

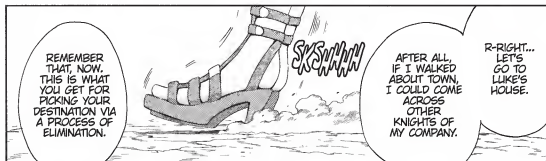
OH
JEEZ...

OH, WHAT
DOES IT
MATTER?
LUKE MEANS
NOTHING
TO YOU,
RIGHT?



HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

IT IS
STILL
EMBAR-
RASS-
ING...

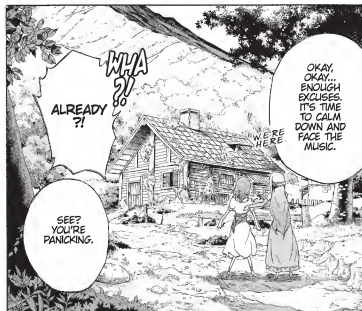


REMEMBER
THAT NOW.
THIS IS WHAT
YOU GET FOR
PICKING YOUR
DESTINATION VIA
A PROCESS OF
ELIMINATION.

SKSNNNN

AFTER ALL,
IF I WALKED
ABOUT TOWN,
I COULD COME
ACROSS
OTHER
KNIGHTS OF
MY COMPANY.

R-RIGHT...
LET'S
GO TO
LUKE'S
HOUSE.



WHA
?!
ALREADY
?!

SEE?
YOU'RE
PANICKING.

OKAY,
OKAY...
ENOUGH
EXCUSES.
IT'S TIME
TO CALM
DOWN AND
FACE THE
MUSIC.

WE'RE
HERE

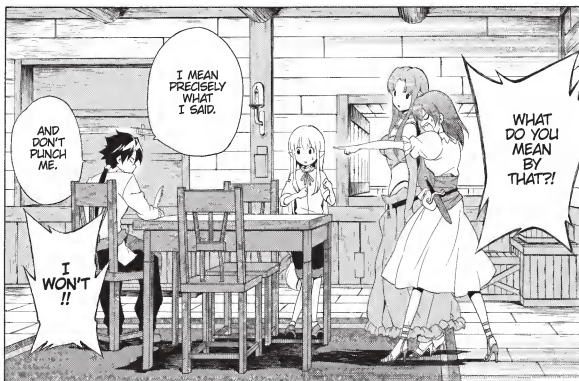


THERE IS
NOTHING
AT ALL
WRONG
WITH ME
COMING
HERE.
NOTHING!

HMPH!
THAT WHOLE
SPIEL ABOUT
GENTLEMEN
I AM "FOND
OF" HAS
NOTHING
TO DO WITH
THIS!

I AM
VISITING
LUKE'S
HOUSE
BECAUSE
I WANT TO
SEE MY
FRIEND
LISA!

SKSNNNN





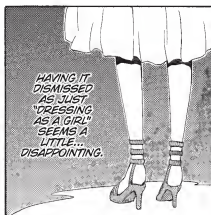
I WOULD
TYPICALLY
ASK HIM TO
RECONSIDER
MAKING
ONE OF HIS
BLADES
FOR ME...



OH,
UH, NO.
I...

ANYWAY,
WHY ARE
YOU
HERE?

COME TO
ASK FOR
A KATANA,
AGAIN?



HAVING IT
DISMISSED
AS JUST
"DRESSING
AS A GIRL"
SEEMS A
LITTLE...
DISAPPOINTING.



AND HIS
COMMENT
ON MY
CLOTHES...



BUT RIGHT
NOW,
HE SEEMS
LITTERLY
LACKING HIS
TYPICAL
CHARM.

?



NO!
THERE
ISN'T!!
NOT
HIM!!

MY, MY!
SO
THERE
IS
ONE!



NO, NO,
THAT
CAN'T
BE IT.
I'M
OVER-
THINKING
THINGS.

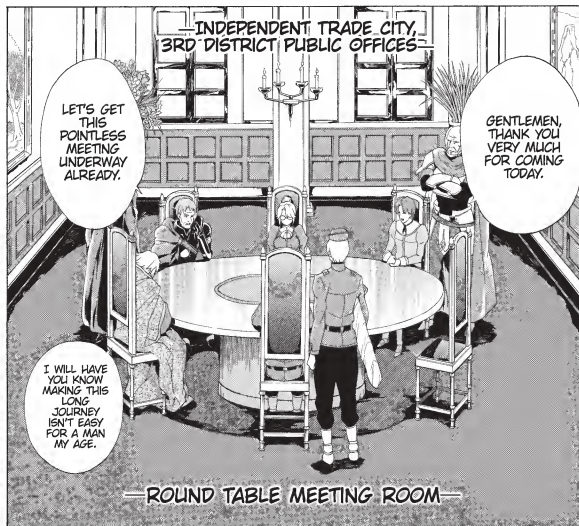
WAIT...
HIS "CHARM"?
I'M
"DISAPPOINTED"
IN HIS
REACTION?



ER--!









THE CROWD, POWERS
ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE
LANCELOT DOUGLAS



MILITANT NATION
TACTICIAN
AREVIY IRVING



THE EMPIRE'S
IMPERIAL KNIGHTS
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
AUGUSTUS ARTHUR



ONE OF
THE
EMPIRE'S
DEMON
BLADES
WAS
RECENTLY
STOLEN,
YES?

BY
THE WAY,
SIR
AUGUS-
TUS...



THESE OFFICIAL
MEETINGS ARE
VERY IMPORTANT
BUSINESS,
GENTLEMEN.
I WOULD NOT
DREAM OF
CALLING THEM
"POINTLESS."

INDEPENDENT TRADE
CITY MAYOR
HUGO HOUSMAN



YOU HAVE
SEEN THE
RESULTS
OF OUR
BATTLE
WITH THEM
IN THIS
VERY
BUILDING,
I BELIEVE.

YES.

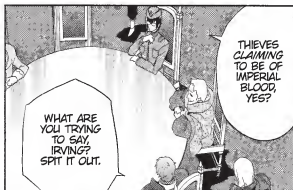


IS THAT
NOT
CORRECT,
HOUSMAN?

THE CITY WAS
KIND ENOUGH
TO RECOVER
OUR STOLEN
PROPERTY,
BUT I HEAR
THE THIEVES
THEMSELVES
ESCAPED.



YES. THE
THIEVES
CLAIMED THEY
WERE OF
IMPERIAL
BLOOD AND
ATTACKED
THIS CITY,
HUNTING FOR
ANOTHER
DEMON
BLADE.



WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO SAY,
IRVING?
SPIT IT OUT.

THIEVES
CLAIMING
TO BE OF
IMPERIAL
BLOOD,
YES?



HEH
HEH...

THEY
WERE QUITE
VICIOUS
FIGHTERS.

THEY
NEARLY
DESTROYED
THE ENTIRE
EAST
WING.



RUMORS
ARE RUMORS.
WHO REMEMBERS
WHERE
THEY HEAR
THEM?



WE ARE
NOT
COLLECTING
THEM.

IT IS NOTHING.
I SIMPLY
WONDERED IF THE
EMPIRE MIGHT
HAVE SOME
REASON TO
COLLECT DEMON
BLADES...



I
COULD
NOT
SAY.

WE SIMPLY
RETRIEVED
PROPERTY
WE
ALREADY
OWNED.

WHERE
DID YOU
HEAR
SUCH A
RUMOR?



CONTINENTAL LEGAL
COUNCIL INVESTIGATOR
JUSTINA ALBRIGHT

WE CANNOT
OFFICIALLY
CONVENE
THIS MEETING
UNTIL YOU
FINISH.



Tox
Tox

GENTLEMEN,
THAT IS
ENOUGH
PROBING
ON THE
SUBJECT,
IF YOU
DON'T MIND.



THE VARIOUS
NATIONS CHOSE THEIR
BEST AND BRIGHTEST
TO BE THEIR
REPRESENTATIVES ON
A COUNCIL WHICH
WOULD CREATE LAWS
AND REGULATIONS
APPLYING TO THE
WHOLE CONTINENT.
COUNCIL MEMBERS
ALSO FUNCTION AS
MEDIATORS DURING
INTERNATIONAL
MEETINGS AND
NEGOTIATIONS.

THE
CONTINENTAL
LEGAL
COUNCIL WAS
FORMED AT
THE END
OF THE
VALBANILL
WAR.



AH,
YES.



I SEE YOU
HAVE
BROUGHT
A NEW
MEMBER
WITH YOU
TODAY.

MR.
ARTHUR.



I AM
SIEGFRIED.
IT IS A
PLEASURE.



HE IS ONE
OF OUR
CAPTAINS
IN THE
IMPERIAL
KNIGHTS.

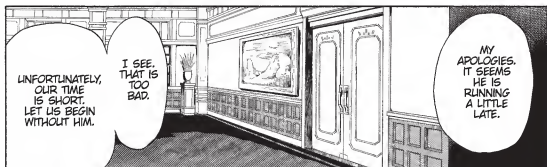
HE HAS BEEN
COMMISSIONED
TO LEAD A
NEWLY-CREATED
DIVISION. HIS
EXCELLENCY
HIMSELF
PERMITTED HIM
TO ATTEND
THIS MEETING.



WHAT
OF THE
BLACK-
SMITH?

MR.
HOUS-
MAN.

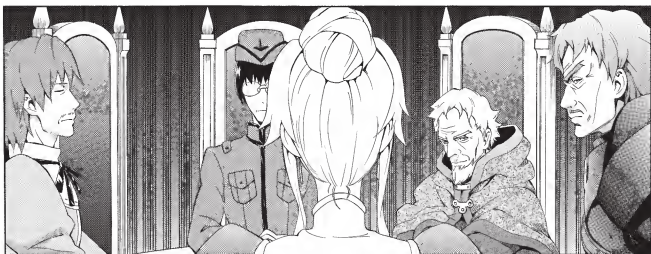
WELL
THEN,
LET US
CONVENE
THE
MEETING.



UNFORTUNATELY,
OUR TIME
IS SHORT.
LET US BEGIN
WITHOUT HIM.

I SEE.
THAT IS
TOO
BAD.

MY
APOLOGIES.
IT SEEMS
HE IS
RUNNING
A LITTLE
LATE.





TO ALL,
ITS
NAME IS
"VALBANILL."

THE
CITY
CALLS
IT
"GOD."

THE
EMPIRE
CALLS IT
"EMPEROR."

THE
MILITANT
NATION
CALLS IT
"THE
BEAST."

THE CROWD
POWERS
CALL IT
"MACHINA."

I HEREBY
CALL THIS
THREE-NATION,
ONE-CITY COUNCIL,
HEREAFTER
KNOWN AS THE
"VALBANILL
MEETINGS"
TO ORDER.



✧ *Cecily Campbell* ✧

アトリエ 工房リーザ

atelier Liza **BRANCH OFFICE!**

Let's begin this
volume's Atelier Liza
Branch Office!
Has yours been
chosen?



↑ Aichi, Takano



↑ Aichi, Micchan



↑ Tochiq, Tsutomu Ochai



↑ Sakama, Kengo Tokuda



↑ Kanagawa, Sakura



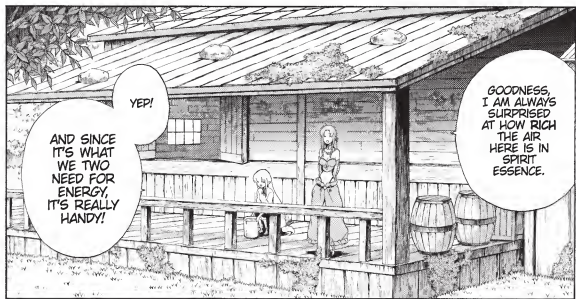
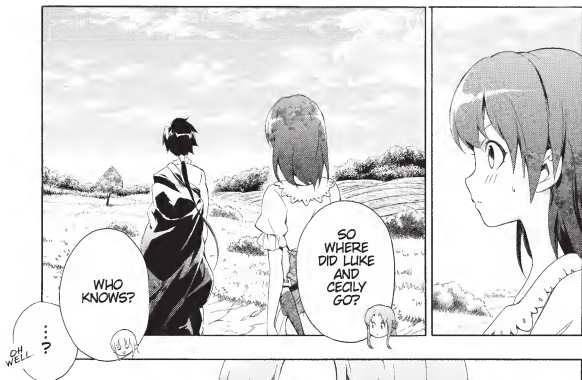
↑ Aichi, Oren

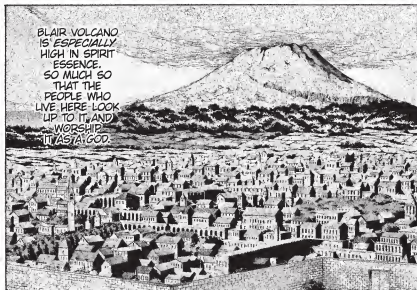
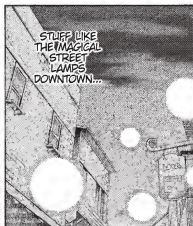
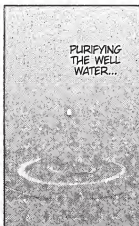
↑ Miyazaki, Aimi

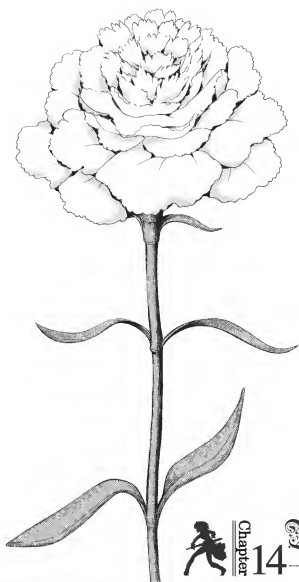


Thank you for your
gracious interest.
Luke could learn a thing
or two from all of you.

Blacksmith







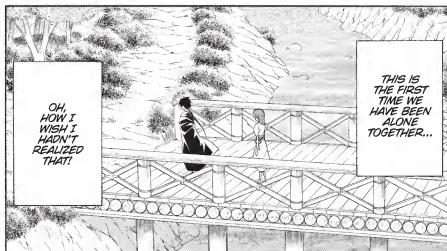
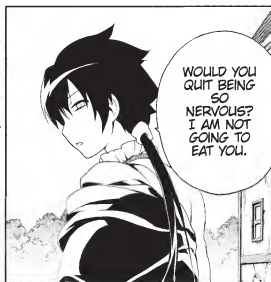
Chapter

14

Blacksmith

(Part 2)







YOU
CAN
HAVE
IT.

THEY
GAVE
ME AN
EXTRA
ONE.



HM...?



DWAH
?!
Job!

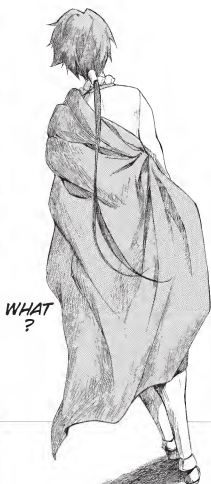




ER...

THANK
YOU...

WAIT...



WHAT
?

FROM
LUKE.

I JUST
RECEIVED
A
FLOWER...



YOU SOUND
LIKE AN
INEXPERIENCED
MAIDEN ON
HER FIRST
DATE.



SO, UM...
Y-YOU DO
HAVE THAT
MUCH IN
THE WAY OF
MANNERS,
AT LEAST.

YOUR
VOICE IS
UNSTEADY.



HEH
HEH...



OOF!

HOW
DARE
YOU SAY
SOME-
THING
LIKE
THAT!!



WHA
?!



HMPH!

BOFF

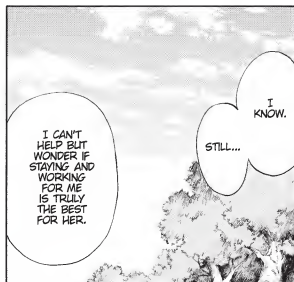


HEE...



HA
HA
HA





I KNOW.
STILL...







SHE WAS
KILLED BY
VALBANILL
THREE
YEARS AGO.

LISA AND
I WERE
FRIENDS AS
CHILDREN.

THE SAME
NAME AS
LISA... AND
ALMOST
THAT OF HIS
SMITHY...



"LISA"...



YES.

VALBANILL
IS AN
INHUMAN SO
LEGENDARY,
IT EVEN GAVE
ITS NAME TO
THE WAR OF
DEMON PACTS,
FOUR
DECADES
AGO.

BUT
ISN'T THAT
...?

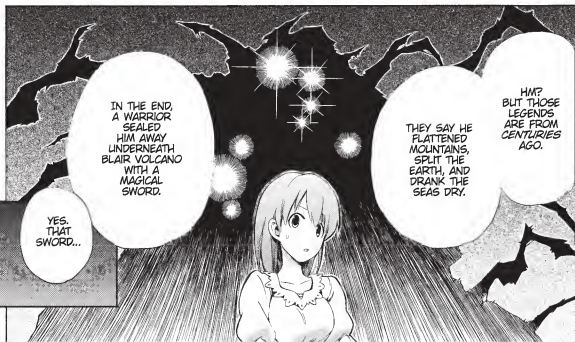


VALBANILL.



WAIT
...

KILLED
BY
WHO?



IN THE END,
A WARRIOR
SEALED
HIM AWAY
UNDERNEATH
BLAIR VOLCANO
WITH A
MAGICAL
SWORD.

YES.
THAT
SWORD...

THEY SAY HE
FLATTENED
MOUNTAINS,
SPLIT THE
EARTH, AND
DRANK THE
SEAS DRY.

HM?
BUT THOSE
LEGENDS
ARE FROM
CENTURIES
AGO.



AND THE ONE
WHO CAN
FORGE THAT
BLADE IS
CALLED THE
"BLACKSMITH."

THE
TECHNIQUES
HAVE BEEN
PASSED
FROM ONE
BLACKSMITH
TO ANOTHER
ACROSS THE
CENTURIES...
DOWN
TO ME.

IS THE
"SACRED
BLADE."

AT LEAST,
THAT'S THE
NAME THAT
MOST PEOPLE
GIVE TO
THE SWORD
THAT KEEPS
VALBANILL
SEALED.



HIS HATRED
SPAWNED THAT
WHICH CAUSED
THE WORST WAR IN
THE CONTINENT'S
HISTORY. VALBANILL
IS THE WORST
EVIL THIS WORLD
HAS KNOWN...

BEING SEALED
AWAY HAS
DONE NOTHING
FOR VALBANILL'S
TEMPER. HE
DESPISES HUMANS
SO MUCH, IT IS
SAID HIS HATE IS
WHAT MAKES
DEMON PACTS
POSSIBLE.



THE
"SACRED
BLADE"...

AND THE
"BLACKSMITH..."

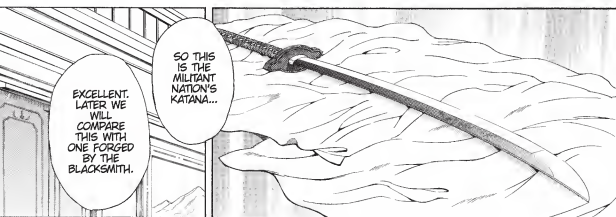
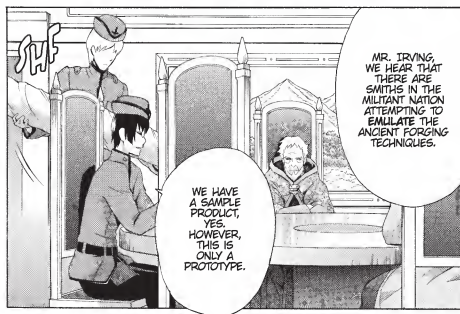
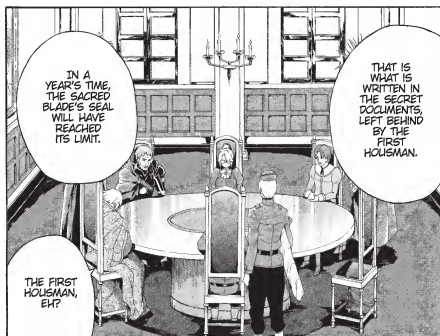


RIGHT NOW,
THE ENTIRE
CONTINENT IS
GOING CRAZY,
TRYING TO
RECREATE THE
SACRED
BLADE.

ANYONE
WOULD,
REALLY.



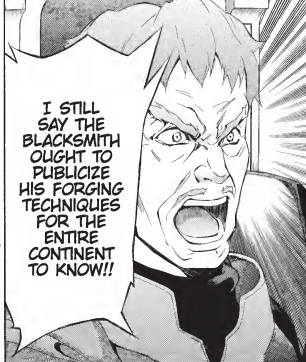
AND THE
SEAL
HOLDING
HIM BACK
WILL SOON
BREAK.



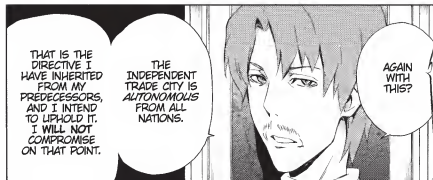


WE NATIONS
MUST
COOPERATE!
WORK
TOGETHER,
SO THAT
WE MAY
PREPARE
FOR SUDDEN
EMERGENCIES,
SUCH
AS THIS!!

THIS IS
SOMETHING
WE SHOULD
HAVE
COMPLETED
AGES
AGO!



I STILL
SAY THE
BLACKSMITH
OUGHT TO
PUBLICIZE
HIS FORGING
TECHNIQUES
FOR THE
ENTIRE
CONTINENT
TO KNOW!!

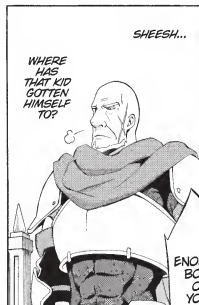


THAT IS THE
DIRECTIVE I
HAVE INHERITED
FROM MY
PREDECESSORS,
AND I INTEND
TO UPHOLD IT.
I WILL NOT
COMPROMISE
ON THAT POINT.

THE
INDEPENDENT
TRADE CITY IS
AUTONOMOUS
FROM ALL
NATIONS.

AGAIN
WITH
THIS?

TO DO SO,
I SUGGEST THAT
ALL NATIONS--
THE EMPIRE, THE
MILITANT NATION,
AND SO FORTH--
STATION A
DETACHMENT OF
TROOPS IN THIS
CITY TO WATCH
AND LEARN...



SHEESH...

WHERE
HAS
THAT KID
GOTTEN
HIMSELF
TO?



HARDLY.
I AM SIMPLY
SAYING YOUR
INTENT TO
CONQUER
THIS CITY IS
TRANSPARENT.

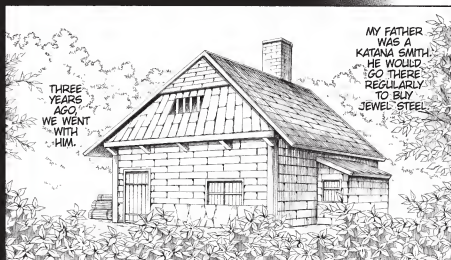
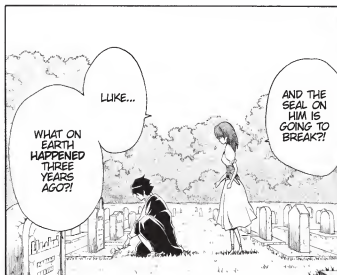
SO YOU
PLACE ONE
MERE CITY
AGAINST
THE GOOD
OF THE
CONTINENT
AS A
WHOLE?!

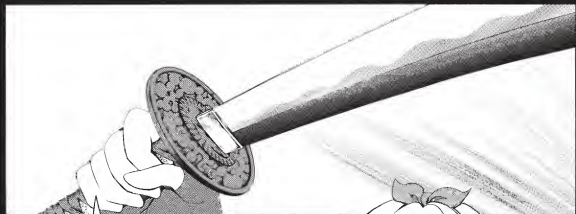


ENOUGH,
BOTH
OF YOU!

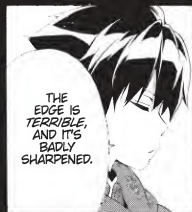


WHAT
WAS THAT,
YOU
YOUNG
WHELP?!





IT
LOOKS...
PRETTY
GOOD?



THE
EDGE IS
TERRIBLE,
AND IT'S
BADLY
SHARPENED.



I
LIKE
IT!

THE GRIP
ISN'T BAD,
EITHER.
NICE AND
SOLID.

THE
CURVE IS
BALANCED
WELL,
MAKING IT
EASY TO
SWING.





"WE FOUND
THE CAVE
AND
DECIDED
TO
EXPLORE."

"WE WENT
DEEPER
AND
DEEPER
INSIDE...."

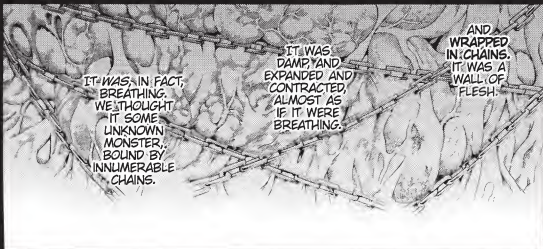


"WHAT
ON
EARTH
...?"

"WE FINALLY
REACHED A
DEAD END.
IT WAS A
STRANGE,
BLACK WALL
WITH RED
STREAKS...."



"WE WERE
JUST
INNOCENT,
BORED KIDS,
LOOKING FOR
SOMETHING
TO DO."



"IT WAS, IN FACT,
BREATHING.
WE THOUGHT
IT SOME
UNKNOWN
MONSTER,
BOUND BY
INNUMERABLE
CHAINS."

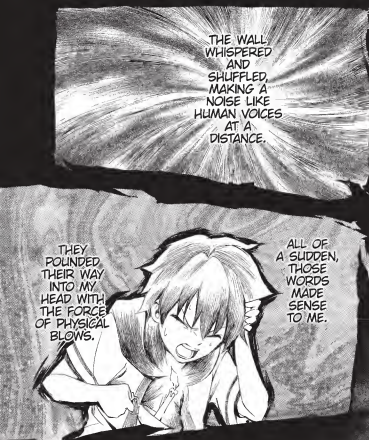
"IT WAS
DAMP AND
EXPANDED AND
CONTRACTED,
ALMOST AS
IF IT WERE
BREATHING."

"AND
WRAPPED
IN CHAINS.
IT WAS A
WALL OF
FLESH."



WE
DIDN'T
KNOW...

THAT IT
WAS AN
EDGE OF
VALBANILL
ITSELF.



THE WALL
WHISPERED
AND
SHUFFLED,
MAKING A
NOISE LIKE
HUMAN VOICES
AT A
DISTANCE.

THEY
POUNDED
THEIR WAY
INTO MY
HEAD WITH
THE FORCE
OF PHYSICAL
BLOWS.

ALL OF
A SUDDEN,
THOSE
WORDS
MADE
SENSE
TO ME.



?!

CURIOUS
AND
ENTIRELY
IGNORANT,
WE
APPROACHED
IT.



MY VISION
WENT
NEARLY
WHITE FROM
THE PAIN
OF IT...

DAD HAD
COME
LOOKING
FOR US.

HE
SAW
WHAT
WAS
HAPPEN-
ING.

HE LEAPT
FORWARD
TO
PROTECT
US...

AND
WAS
KILLED
!!

BUT I
COULD STILL
SEE ENOUGH
TO SEE
THE WALL
OF FLESH
DISGORGE
ARMS AND
ATTACK US!



THEN
IT
KILLED
LISA,
TOO!!!



ME?

I RAN,
LIKE A
COWARD!

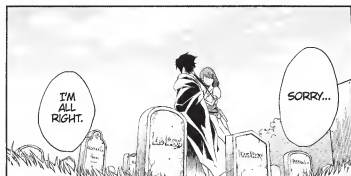
I WAS
THE ONLY
ONE TO
SURVIVE
...

I
RAN.

JUST
ME.

ME
ALONE...

ME
ALONE
!!



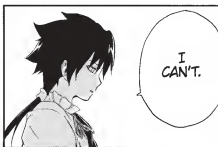
ARE YOU...
PLANNING
REVENGE?



YOU
CAN'T
...?



I
CAN'T.



THE SPIRIT
ESSENCE
IS H/S.
HE EMITS IT
CONSTANTLY.

IT IS
BECAUSE WE
ARE CLOSE
TO BLAIR
VOLCANO,
WHERE
VALBANILL IS
CHAINED.

DO YOU
KNOW WHY
THIS AREA IS
PARTICULARLY
RICH IN
SPIRIT
ESSENCE?





VALBANILL
IS THE
SOURCE
OF SPIRIT
ESSENCE
...?

WHAT?!

DESTROY HIM,
AND SPIRIT
ESSENCE WILL
VANISH
FROM THE
ENTIRE
CONTINENT.

THERE IS
CENDRILLON
FOREST.

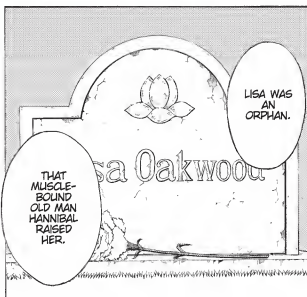
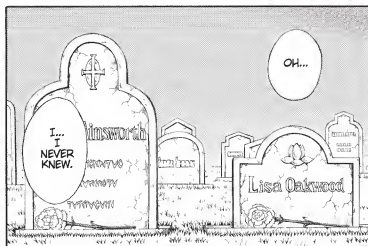
THE
FOREST THAT
SURROUNDS
THE CITY...
IT IS WHAT
DIVIDES THE
GREEN LAND
FROM THE
GRAY SKY.

NOT
ONLY
THAT
...

IT WILL
COVER THE
FOREST AND
THE CITY,
SMOTHERING
ALL LIFE.

WITHOUT
SPIRIT
ESSENCE,
THAT
ASH WILL
FALL.

THAT FOREST
IS STEEPED IN
SPIRIT ESSENCE.
THROUGH THAT
POWER, IT KEEPS
THE ASH FROM
THE VOLCANO
TRAPPED HIGH
IN THE SKY,
PURIFYING THE
AIR WE BREATHE
DOWN HERE.



IF THAT IS TRUE, THEN WHY DOES HE ALWAYS INSIST THAT HE FORGES KATANA ONLY FOR HIS OWN SAKE?



LISA
ALWAYS
WANTED
TO BE A
KNIGHT.

SHE TOLD
ME SHE
WOULD WIELD
THE COMMON
BLADES I
MADE TO
PROTECT
THE ENTIRE
CITY...

CON-
STANTLY.



THAT
HURT.

WHY YOU
CHOSE
TO TELL
ME
THIS?

THAT'S
WHY...

SHE WAS
LIKE YOU
IN THAT
RESPECT.

WAIT...

WHY DOES
MY CHEST
FEEL THIS
TIGHT?

WHY?



WHY DO
I FEEL
THIS
WAY?

IT HURTS
SO BADLY,
I COULD
CRY...

BUT NO
TEARS
WILL COME
OUT.

I CAN'T
BEAR
TO LOOK
AT HIM.



DO...





LIAR!



EVEN
NOW,
YOU
STILL...



I DID,
ONCE.

BUT
SHE IS
DEAD
AND
GONE,
NOW.



DO
YOU
LOVE
HER?







✧ *Luke Ainsworth* ✧



Hunh. These works of art are nearly as good as the blades I forge. Not bad.

アトリエ工房リーザ

atelier Liza BRANCH OFFICE II



↑ Tokyo, Yosuke

Aichi, Excalibur →



↑ Saitama, Yuuki Yamazaki



↑ Kagoshima, Akane Hiragawa



Aichi, the Demon Blade Smith

Gifu, Daiki Maruyama →



ニヶ月後に受験をひかえた中学生です(かバカ) 山田先生の書く絵に惚れて買いました。小説とは違うおもしろさがたまりません... これからも頑張ってください!! (初めての応募、喜ばしくしたへ)



↑ Ibaraki, Matsuri Tachibana

Taking exams is like forging a blade. You use all of the knowledge and techniques you have gained to display your greatest level of skill.

red Blacksmith



LUKE,
YOU
ARE
LATE!!



HOW
LONG
DID YOU
INTEND
TO KEEP
US
WAITING?!

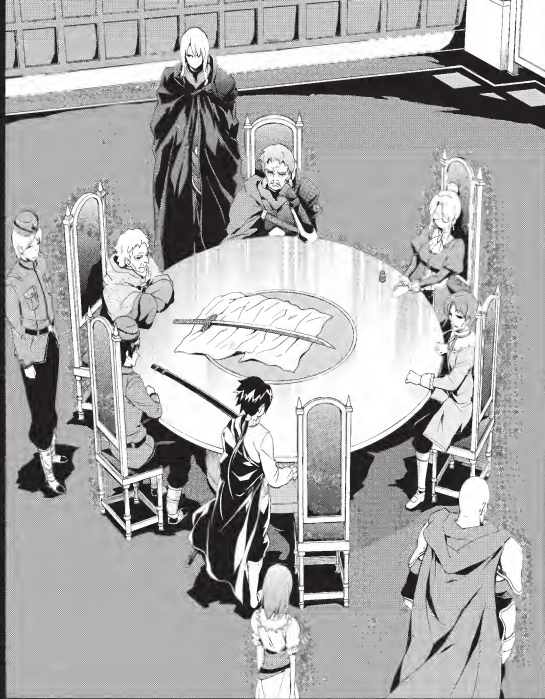
GODS
ABOVE,
MUST
YOU
ALWAYS--



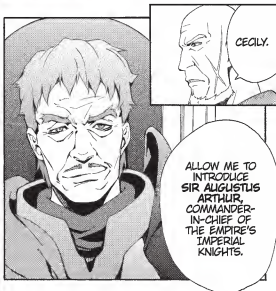
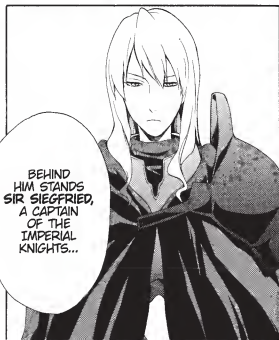
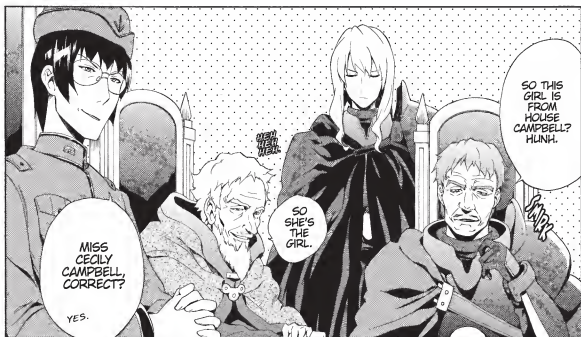
CAPTAIN!

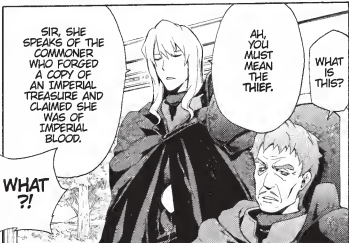
DID
YOU...
TELL
HER?

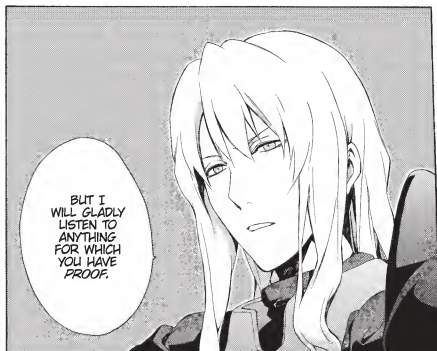
WHY
IS
CECILY
HERE?



 Chapter 15 **Blacksmith** (Part 3)







BUT I
WILL GLADLY
LISTEN TO
ANYTHING
FOR WHICH
YOU HAVE
PROOF.



HEY! STOP
PRETENDING
YOU DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING!
YOU WERE
THE ONE
WHO--!

I DO NOT
KNOW WHAT
LIES THAT
PEASANT
GIRL MAY
HAVE
BEDAZZLED
YOU WITH...



CECILY,
STAND
DOWN.



...



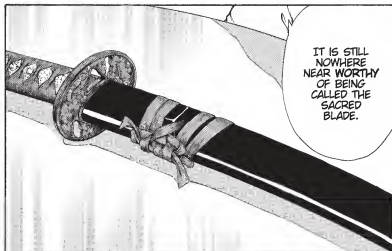
AND THEN,
THERE WAS
THE ATTACK
BY JACK
STRADER!

INHUMANS
WERE USED
IN THE FIRST
ATTEMPT
MADE BY
THOSE
BANDITS TO
STEAL ARIA.

HE
WAS THE
ONE
BEHIND
THEM!



RRRGH
....!





AT A GLANCE,
THIS SWORD
SEEMS LITTLE
DIFFERENT
FROM OUR
NATION'S
PROTOTYPE.

YES.



GRR!

MERE BOYS
ONLY HAVE A
FRACTION
OF THEIR
FATHER'S
SKILL.



LOSING HIS
PREDECESSOR
IS TURNING
OUT TO BE A
MORE PAINFUL
BLOW THAN
EXPECTED.



HOW MUCH
IMPROVEMENT
CAN WE
EXPECT FROM
THIS BOY IN
ONE YEAR'S
TIME?

YES.

GODS,
WHAT A NUI-
SANCE.

IF
ONLY
BASIL
YET
LIVED.

ARE YOU
EVEN
TRYING,
BOY?

IT IS
NOT TOO
LATE TO
MAKE THE
TECHNIQUES
PUBLIC!

AGAIN
WITH
THAT
TOPIC...



IT LOOKS
ALMOST AS
LIFELESS
AND
GLASSY
AS YOUR
LEFT.



EVER SINCE
YOU TOLD ME
ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED
THREE
YEARS AGO,
I HAVEN'T
SEEN ANY
EMOTION
GLITTERING
IN YOUR
RIGHT EYE.



HOWEVER,
EVEN NOW THE
BLADES YOU
PRODUCE IN
THAT FASHION
BREAK AFTER
ONLY A FEW
STRIKES.

OF ALL THE
PEOPLE WHO
QUALIFY AS A
"BLACKSMITH,"
WE PAY SPECIAL
ATTENTION TO
YOU BECAUSE
OF YOUR ABILITY
TO PRODUCE
DEMON KATANA.



WHY
DON'T YOU
TELL IT
LIKE IT IS?
YOU ARE
USING ME,
NOTHING
MORE.

REALLY
?



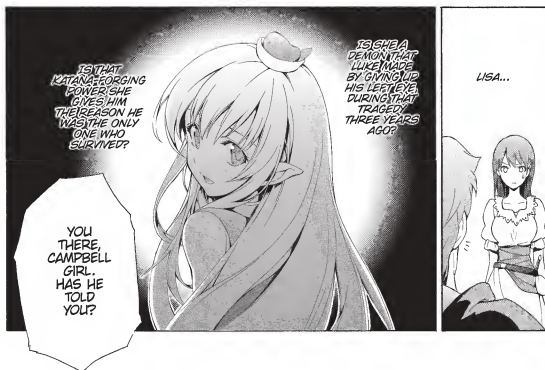
BOY...!



WE ARE
DOING
YOU A
FAVOR,
BOY.

YOU
COULD AT
LEAST DO
SOMETHING
TO REPAY
US.

EXACTLY!
THAT TALENT
OF YOURS
IS THE ONLY
REASON WE
LET YOU
KEEP THAT
PET DEMON
OF YOURS.



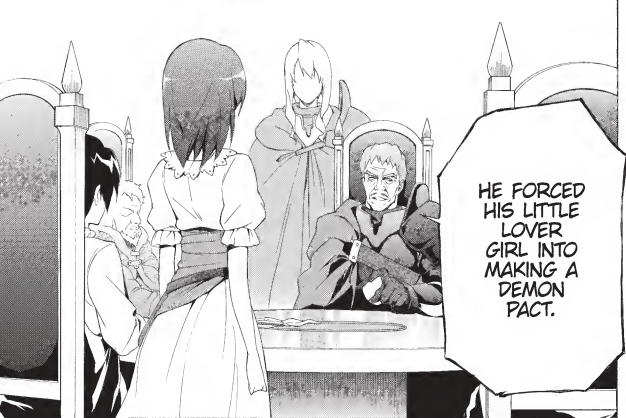
IS THAT
KATANA FORGING
POWER SHE
GIVES HIM
THE REASON HE
WAS THE ONLY
ONE WHO
SURVIVED?

IS SHE A
DEMON THAT
LUKE MADE
BY GIVING UP
HIS LEFT EYE
DURING THAT
TRAGEDY
THREE YEARS
AGO?

YOU
THERE,
CAMPBELL
GIRL.
HAS HE
TOLD
YOU?

LISA...





HE FORCED
HIS LITTLE
LOVER
GIRL INTO
MAKING A
DEMON
PACT.



HUH...?



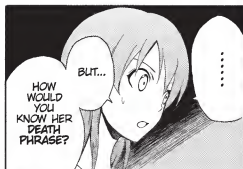
WHAT?!
WHAT ARE
YOU
SAYING?!

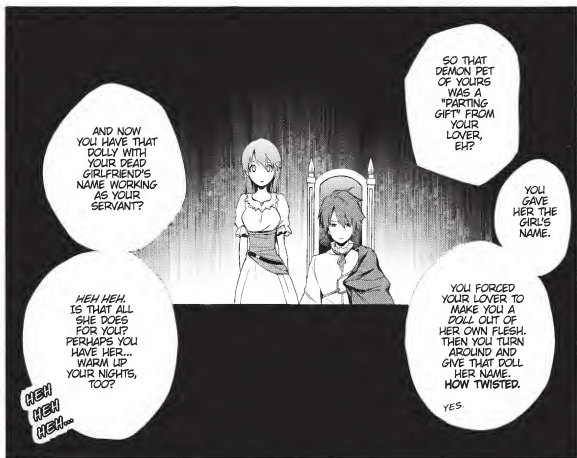
THAT
CAN'T BE
TRUE,
RIGHT?!
LUKE...?

THAT BOY
DEMANDED HIS
LOVER MAKE A
DEMON PACT, AND
THEN HE USED
THE POWER THAT
GAVE HIM AS
THE SHIELD HE
NEEDED TO SAVE
HIS OWN SKIN.

ARTHUR!
NOW IS
NOT
THE TIME
FOR--

IT IS
THE
TRUTH,
QUASAR.



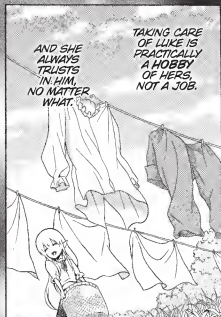


SOMETHING
IS WRONG.
NONE
OF THIS
FITS...

NO.

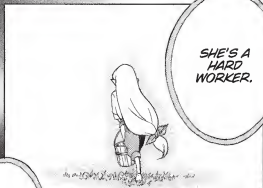


LISA
ISN'T A
"DOLL."



AND SHE
ALWAYS
TRUSTS
IN HIM,
NO MATTER
WHAT.

TAKING CARE
OF LUKE IS
PRACTICALLY
A HOBBY
OF HERS,
NOT A JOB.



SHE'S A
HARD
WORKER.



A
GOOD
COOK.



A
NORMAL
GIRL.

SHE
CARES
ABOUT
HIM SO
MUCH.
SHE'S A
GOOD, SWEET
GIRL...

HER
ABILITY TO
CREATE
DEMON
KATANA IS
JUST A
BONUS.

IT IS
ALMOST AS
IF HE IS
ATTEMPTING
TO HIDE
SOMETHING...

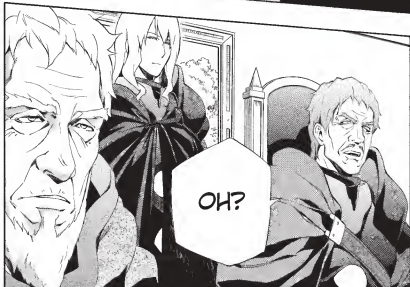
EVER SINCE
SHE WAS
BROUGHT UP,
LUKE HASN'T
LOOKED
ANYONE IN
THE FACE.

WHY WOULD
LUKE'S
CHILDHOOD
FRIEND LISA
CREATE
THE LISA I
KNOW?

I HAVE
TO DO
SOME-
THING,
NOW!

I HAVE
TO DO
SOME-
THING.

BUT
WHAT?



CAREFUL
NOW,
CECILY.

I KNOW I CAN
BE STUBBORN,
BUT THAT
DOESN'T MEAN
I HAVE TO BE
STUPID.

LUKE DID
NOT USE
HER AS A
SHIELD TO
COVER
HIS OWN
ESCAPE!

ON WHAT
PROOF
DO YOU
BASE THIS
ASSUMPTION?

BEING
SIMPLE-
MINDED AND
STRAIGHT-
FORWARD
CAN SHOW
ME THINGS
THAT PEOPLE
LOOKING FOR
A COMPLEX
ANSWER
WON'T FIND!

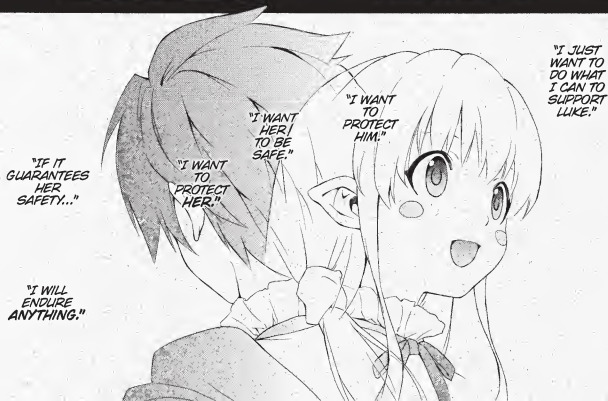
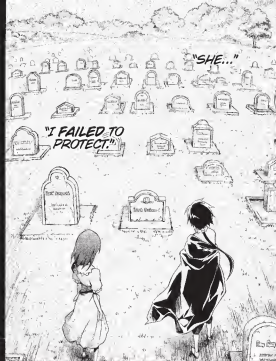
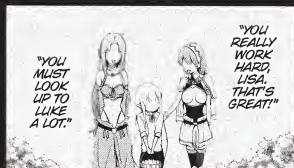
THERE ARE
ADVANTAGES.

FIND
ALL THE
PIECES
OF THE
ANSWER!

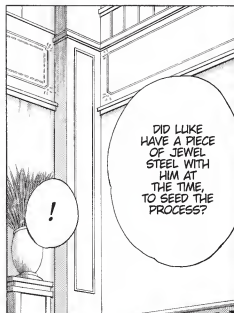
THINK!

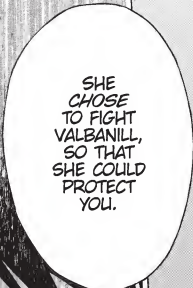
IT...
AH...

I WILL
NOT
BACK
DOWN!!

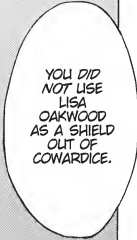






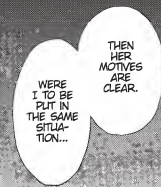


SHE
CHOSE
TO FIGHT
VALBANILL,
SO THAT
SHE COULD
PROTECT
YOU.

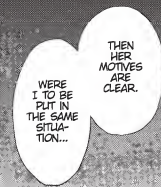


YOU DID
NOT USE
LISA
OAKWOOD
AS A SHIELD
OUT OF
COWARDICE.

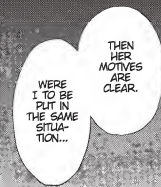
BA-
THUMP



WERE
I TO BE
PUT IN
THE SAME
SITUA-
TION...



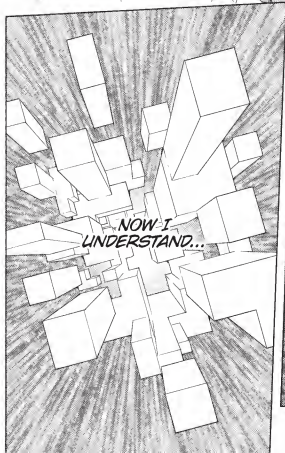
THEN
HER
MOTIVES
ARE
CLEAR.



YOU TOLD
ME SHE
WANTED TO
BECOME A
KNIGHT,
CORRECT?

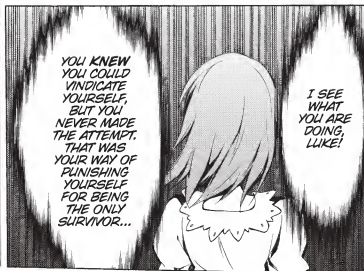


THE PIECES
ARE
STARTING
TO COME
TOGETHER.





**WHAT
AN
IDIOT
!!**



**YOU KNEW
YOU COULD
VINDICATE
YOURSELF,
BUT YOU
NEVER MADE
THE ATTEMPT.
THAT WAS
YOUR WAY OF
PUNISHING
YOURSELF
FOR BEING
THE ONLY
SURVIVOR...**

**I SEE
WHAT
YOU ARE
DOING,
LUKE!**



**STOP.
DON'T
SAY ANY
MORE.**



**THAT IS
WHY
YOU ARE
REFUSING
TO LOOK
AT ME.**

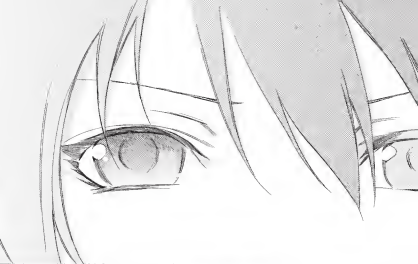
**AND YOU ARE
STARTING TO
REALIZE
WHAT I AM
ABOUT TO
SAY NEXT
AREN'T YOU?**



**AND SO,
SHE DID.
WE
KNOW
THAT.**

**LISA
OAKWOOD
WANTED
TO
PROTECT
LUKE...**

**I WILL
PLACE
THE LAST
PIECE AND
COMPLETE
THIS
PUZZLE!**



NO, SIR.
SHE
WANTED TO
PROTECT
HIM, EVEN
FROM
BEYOND
THE
GRAVE.

AND IN SO
DOING, SHE
LEFT BEHIND
A MEANS TO
CONTINUE
PROTECTING
HIM AFTER
HER DEATH...

SHE GAVE
HER LIFE TO
KEEP SAFE
THE ONE
PERSON
MORE
PRECIOUS TO
HER THAN
ANYTHING.

LISA!





LISA'S VERY
EXISTENCE
TELLS US
EVERYTHING
WE NEED
TO KNOW
ABOUT LISA
OAKWOOD'S
TRUE
MOTIVATION.

YOU ARE
THE ONE
WHO
IS BEING
RIDICULOUS.

RIDICU-
LOUS
!!

THAT'S
NOTHING
BUT A
FANTASY
YOU
INVENTED!!



LISA
OAKWOOD...
IN YOUR
PLACE,
I WILL
TELL HIM.

I KNOW
IT IS THE
TRUTH.



THAT IS,
WITHOUT
A
DOUBT...

HER
DETERMINATION
TO PROTECT
HIM, EVEN
AFTER HER
DEATH...

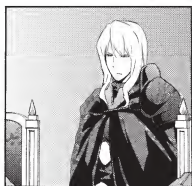
YOU DO NOT
UNDERSTAND
IT YET.

NEITHER
DO I...

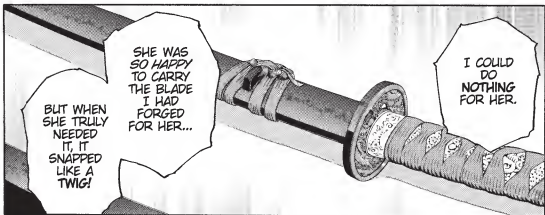
NOT TO
ITS
FULLEST
EXTENT.



BUT ISN'T
THAT...
WHAT IT
MEANS
TO LOVE
SOMEONE?



I...
I CAN'T
ACCEPT
THAT.



BUT WHEN
SHE TRULY
NEEDED
IT, IT
SNAPPED
LIKE A
TWIG!

SHE WAS
SO HAPPY
TO CARRY
THE BLADE
I HAD
FORGED
FOR HER...

I COULD
DO
NOTHING
FOR HER.



SO I TOLD
MYSELF,
AT LEAST
I WOULD
PROTECT
THE LISA
SHE LEFT
BEHIND.

I
SWORE
I
WOULD!

HOW
CAN YOU
EXPECT
ME TO
ACCEPT
THAT?!

BUT
STILL I
SIT HERE,
BEING
PROTECTED
BY
EVERYONE
ELSE!!



SHUT
UP.



I'LL TELL
YOU,
RIGHT NOW,
IN PLAIN
WORDS,
YOU ARE
NOT!

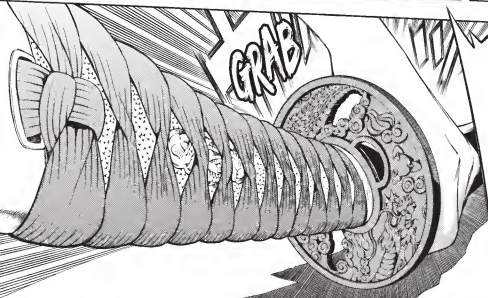
YOU
CANNOT
LET THAT
SLANDER
STAND!

DON'T
SULLY LISA
OAKWOOD'S
DEATH
LIKE THAT!



YOU
THINK
YOU ARE
"PRO-
TECTING"
HER?!

YOU THINK
BY PUTTING
UP WITH
WHATEVER
INSULTS
THESE MEN
HEAP UPON
YOU THAT
YOU ARE
"KEEPING
HER
SAFE"?!



GRAB!

DON'T
LET YOUR
WILL-
POWER
STAY
BOUND UP
IN ITS
SHEATH!



WIELD
IT!

DRAW
IT!

STAYING
HERE AND
LISTENING
TO THEM
ENJOYING
THE SOUND
OF THEIR
OWN
VOICES IS
POINTLESS!!

AND
FIGHT
WITH
IT!!

SHING

WE WILL
SWEAR
TO YOU
RIGHT
NOW...

YOU
GENTLEMEN
CAN SIT
HERE AND
NATTER ON
ABOUT YOUR
POLITICS,
SCHEMES,
AND LIES!

WATCH
YOUR
MOUTH,
GIRL!



THANK

IT WILL
NOT
BE THE
EMPIRE...

NOR THE
MILITANT
NATION,
NOR THE
CROWD
POWERS...

NOR
EVEN THE
INDEPENDENT
TRADE
CITY!



IT WILL BE
MY HAND
WIELDING
LUKE'S
KATANA
THAT WILL
DESTROY
VALBANILL!!

**THAT I
SWEAR
TO
YOU!!**





✧ *Lisa Oakwood* ✧

アトリエ 工房リーザ

atelier Liza BRANCH OFFICE III

Oooh!♥
Can't you just feel
the love in each of
these pieces?



↑ Aichi, Ito Kanji



Aichi, K.K.→

↑ Osaka, Yuu Shuta



↑ Yamaguchi, Shonen Tensai



こんにちは。
そしてはじめるよ!!
ナツミと一緒だね
みんなのリザを待たせて
おが、楽しくおあせを。
てまろ^^
アニメ二期
作ははじめる!



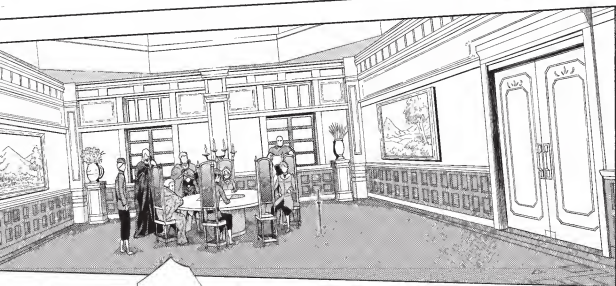
↑ Miyagi, Kotoko Tanimura

Aichi, Yakitori→

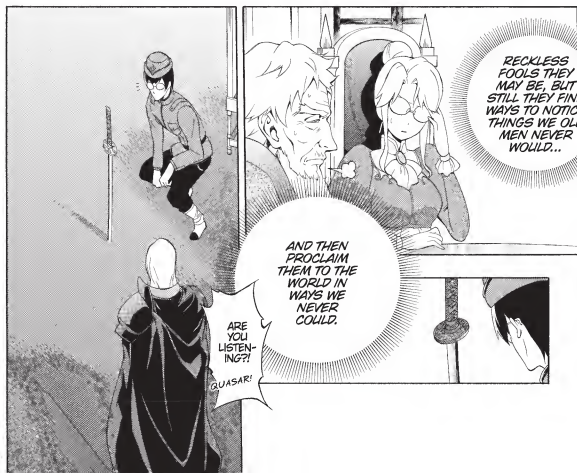


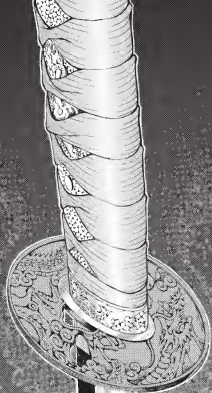
↑ Chiba, Shuya Himesora
Wow, everybody's so good!
I hope I can be as good as
you all when I grow up!

cred Blacksmith



WHA...



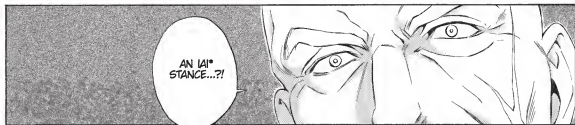
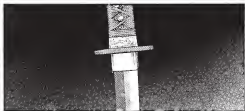


Chapter

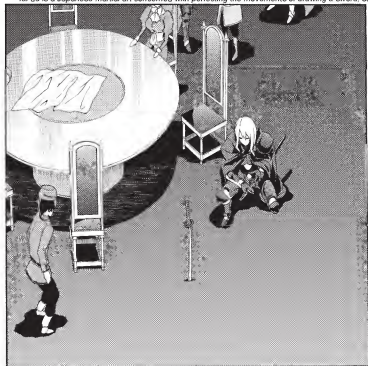
16

Blacksmith

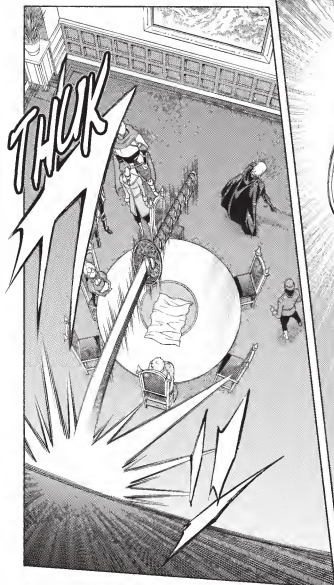
(Part 4)

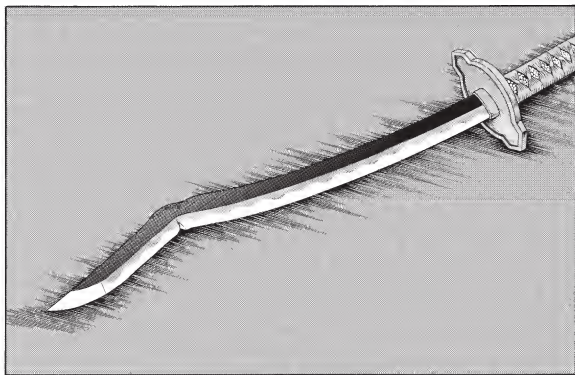
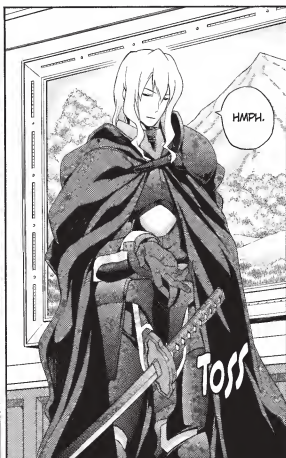


**iai-do is a Japanese martial art concerned with perfecting the movements of drawing a sword, striking, then returning the blade to the sheath.*



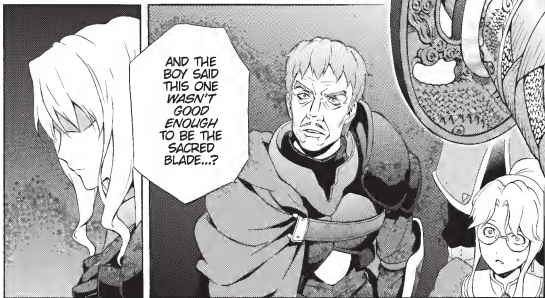








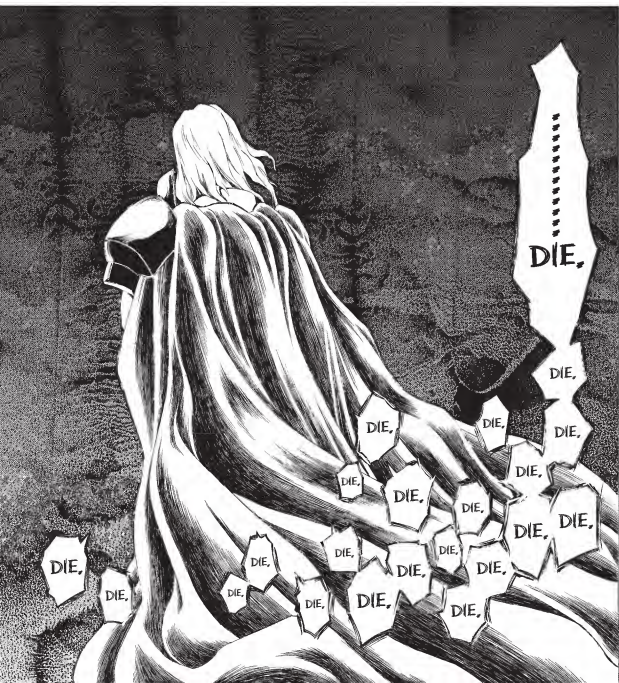
THERE IS
NOT A
SINGLE
KNICK OR
SCRATCH
ON THE
BLACK-
SMITH'S
BLADE!!

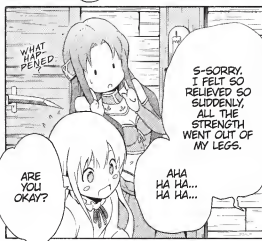


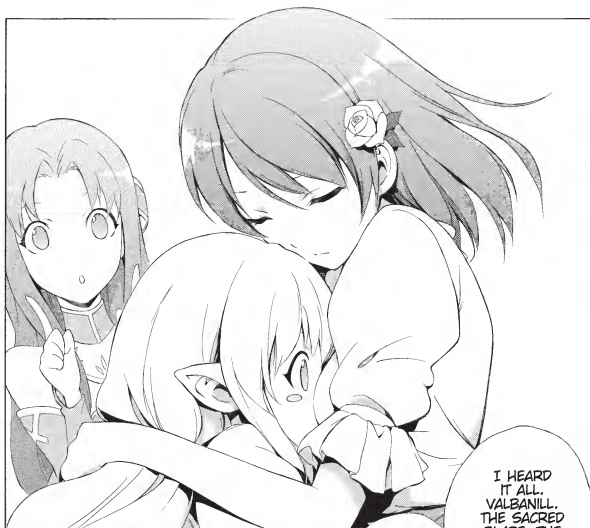
AND THE
BOY SAID
THIS ONE
WASN'T
GOOD
ENOUGH
TO BE THE
SACRED
BLADE...?



ISN'T THAT
WHAT IT
MEANS
TO LOVE
SOMEONE?

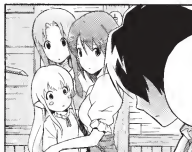






I HEARD
IT ALL.
VALBANILL.
THE SACRED
BLADE. THE
BLACKSMITH.
EVEN LISA
OAKWOOD.

EVERYTHING.



WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
OF YOUR
LIFE?

LISA,
TELL
ME.

BUT KNOWING
WHAT YOU
WANT IS THE
ONLY WAY TO
TIE IT ALL
TOGETHER.

LM...





REALLY?
THAT'S WONDERFUL!
I BET
YOU WERE
HAPPY ABOUT
THAT.

YEAH!



WELL,
AFTER THAT,
LUKE WENT
OUT AND
BOUGHT
MORE CLOTHES
FOR ME.
MORE THAN
ONCE, EVEN!

YOU
REMEMBER
WHEN YOU
BOUGHT
ME A NEW
OUTFIT
AT THE
MARKET?



REALLY,
REALLY
HAPPY.

I WAS
REALLY
HAPPY!

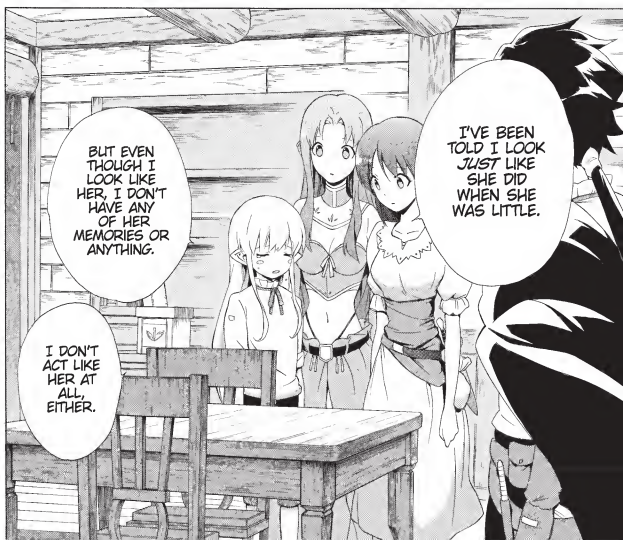


IT
STARTED
TO
HURT.

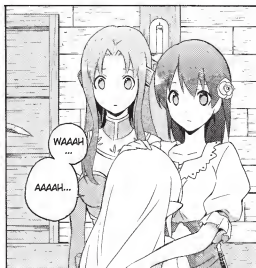
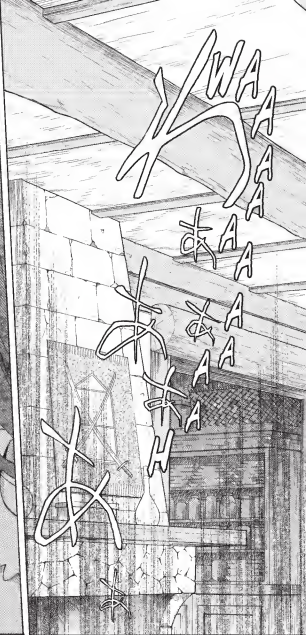


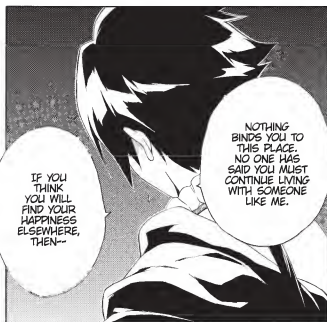
I GOT
SO
HAPPY,
IT...

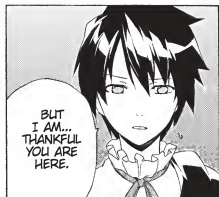
UM...













I WANT
TO BE
HERE.



OH,
WELL,
LET ME
MAKE
ONE
THING
CLEAR,
OKAY?



EVERYTHING
I DO FOR
YOU, I DO
BECAUSE I
WANT TO.

I WANT
TO DO THE
LAUNDRY.

I WANT
TO
COOK.

I
WANT
TO
HELP.



PAT

I'M
HUNGRY.

I'LL GET
STARTED
ON
DINNER
RIGHT
AWAY!

OKAY!

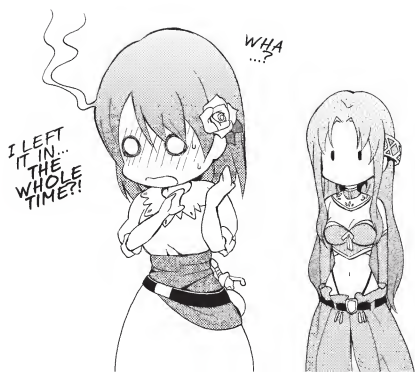


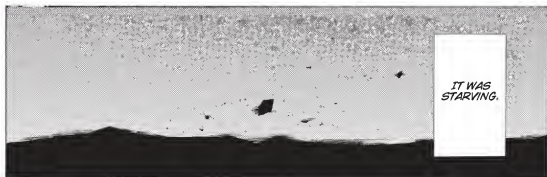




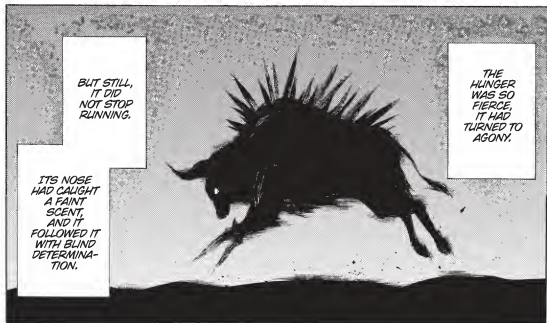
THAT IS
A LOVELY
FLOWER IN
YOUR HAIR.
WHERE
DID YOU
GET IT?

OH!
CECILY,
BY THE
WAY...





IT WAS
STARVING.



BUT STILL,
IT DID
NOT STOP
RUNNING.

ITS NOSE
HAD CAUGHT
A FAINT
SCENT,
AND IT
FOLLOWED IT
WITH BLIND
DETERMINA-
TION.

THE
HUNGER
WAS SO
FIERCE,
IT HAD
TURNED TO
AGONY.



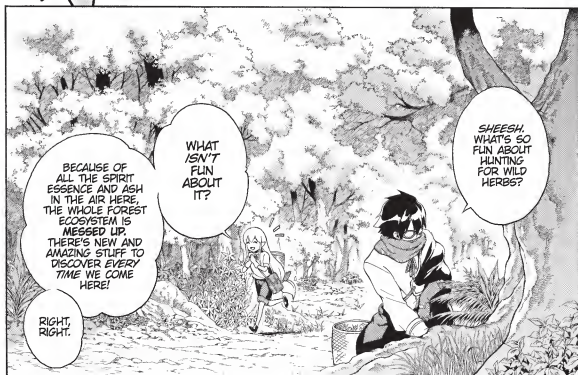
AND IT
VERY
MUCH
WANTED
TO MEET
ITS GOD.



THAT
SCENT
WAS THE
SCENT
OF WHAT
WAS,
TO IT,
A GOD.



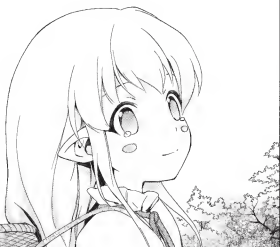
 Chapter 17 Monster (Part 1)







I'M A DEMON.
I WAS BORN
THROUGH ONE
HUMAN'S
ULTIMATE
SACRIFICE.



AND HE'S
EVEN
TRYING TO
CHANGE
HIMSELF,
SO IT
WORKS
OUT
BETTER!

BUT NOW,
LUKE SAID
HE WANTS
US TO STAY
TOGETHER.



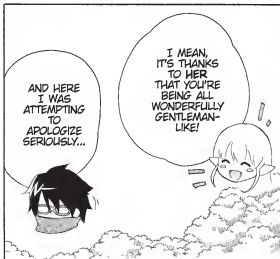
BUT I
WANTED
TO STAY
WITH HIM.

FOR A WHILE,
I THOUGHT
LUKE MIGHT
THROW ME
AWAY AT ANY
MINUTE...

SO I PAID REALLY,
REALLY CLOSE
ATTENTION TO
WHATEVER HE DID,
TO MAKE SURE I
WAS DOING IT
RIGHT AND SO I
COULD STAY WITH
HIM JUST THAT
MUCH LONGER.

AND HERE
I WAS
ATTEMPTING
TO
APOLOGIZE
SERIOUSLY...

I MEAN,
IT'S THANKS
TO HER
THAT YOU'RE
BEING ALL
WONDERFULLY
GENTLEMAN-
LIKE!



I'VE GOTTA
SAY THANK
YOU TO
MISS CECILY
SOME TIME.



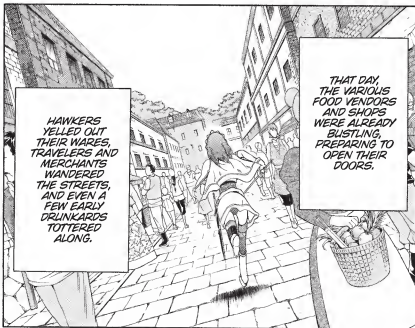
HN?





UGH,
I CAN
BARELY
STAND
THAT
WOMAN...
EVERY-
THING
SHE DOES
GETS
ON MY
NERVES.

LUKE'S HEART
USED TO BE ALL
CLOSED UP AND
HIDDEN AWAY.
IT WAS MISS
CECILY'S
EARNEST
HONESTY THAT
OPENED IT.



HAWKERS
YELLED OUT
THEIR WARES,
TRAVELERS AND
MERCHANTS
WANDERED
THE STREETS,
AND EVEN A
FEW EARLY
DRUNKARDS
TOTTERED
ALONG.

THAT DAY,
THE VARIOUS
FOOD VENDORS
AND SHOPS
WERE ALREADY
BUSTLING,
PREPARING TO
OPEN THEIR
DOORS.



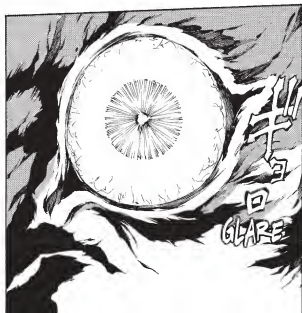
INDEPENDENT
TRADE CITY,
CENTRAL
THIRD
DISTRICT.
THE "FOOD
COURT."



BUT THE
PEACE
DID NOT
LAST
LONG...



CRUMBLING
BEFORE
A WAVE
OF EVER-
GROWING
TERROR.





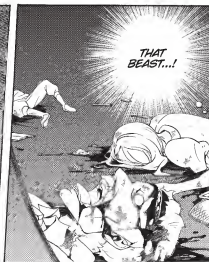
*ITS BACK
WAS A
PINCUSHION,
STUCK
FULL OF
SWORDS.*

*THE
INHUMAN
STOOD
THERE,
CHEWING
ON THE
FLESH OF A
DEAD MAN.*



ONE
GLANCE
WAS
ENOUGH
TO TELL
THAT THIS
WAS NO
NATURAL
BEAST.

NOT ONLY
WAS ITS BACK
COVERED
IN BLADES,
ITS FORELEGS
ENDED IN
TWO RAZOR-
SHARP
SPEARHEADS.



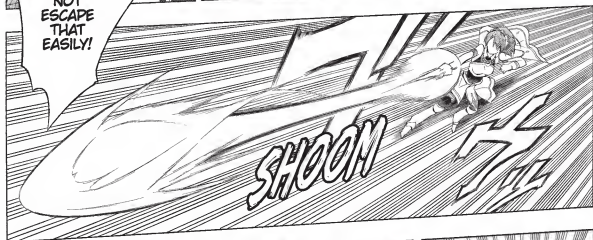
THAT
BEAST...!

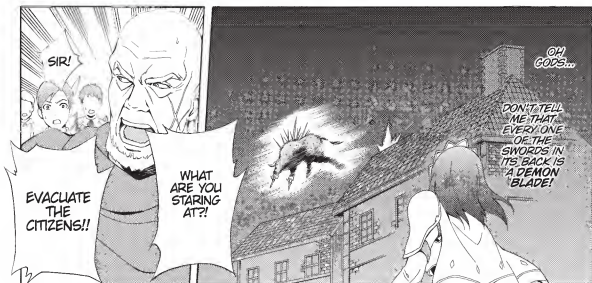


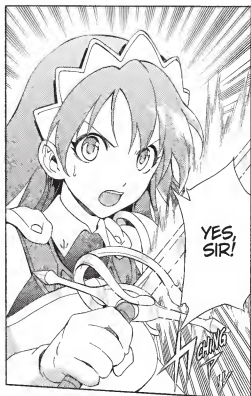
HOW
DARE IT
KILL
INNOCENT
CIVILIANS
!!

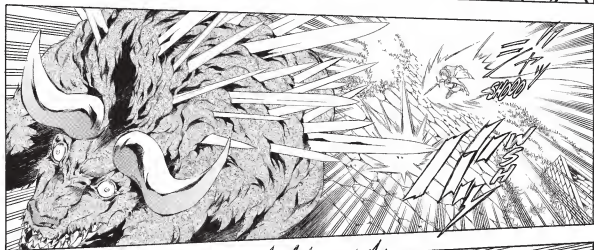
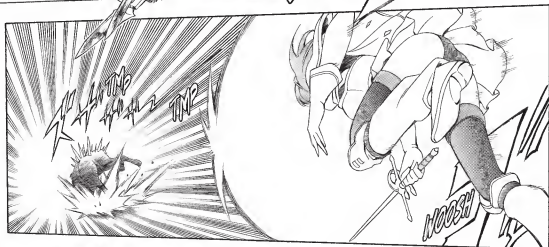


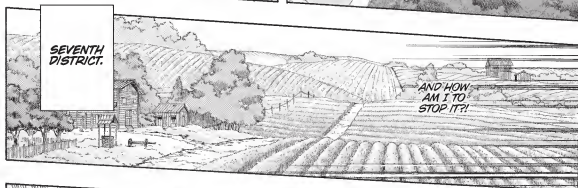
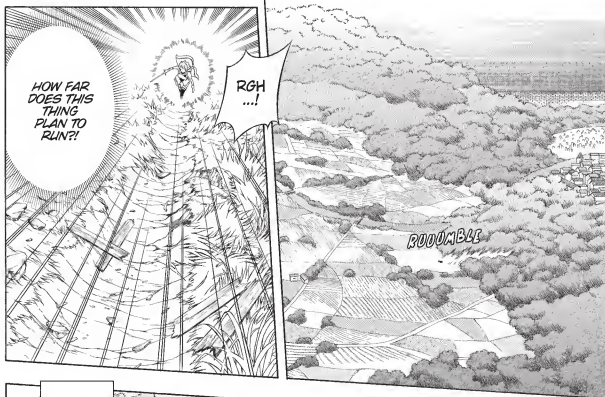












HYAAAAA

WITH A BLAST OF WIND TO SEND IT OVER THE CLIFF'S EDGE, I CAN LET THE FALL KILL IT!!

MRPH?!

FOOM

HROTH!

WITH A BLAST OF WIND TO SEND IT OVER THE CLIFF'S EDGE, I CAN LET THE FALL KILL IT!!

HYAAAAA

FOOM

MRPH?!

HROTH!

WITH A BLAST OF WIND TO SEND IT OVER THE CLIFF'S EDGE, I CAN LET THE FALL KILL IT!!

HYAAAAA

FOOM

MRPH?!

HROTH!

WITH A BLAST OF WIND TO SEND IT OVER THE CLIFF'S EDGE, I CAN LET THE FALL KILL IT!!

HYAAAAA

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WITH A BLAST OF WIND TO SEND IT OVER THE CLIFF'S EDGE, I CAN LET THE FALL KILL IT!!

HYAAAAA

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WITH A BLAST OF WIND TO SEND IT OVER THE CLIFF'S EDGE, I CAN LET THE FALL KILL IT!!

HYAAAAA

FOOM

MRPH?!

HROTH!

WITH A BLAST OF WIND TO SEND IT OVER THE CLIFF'S EDGE, I CAN LET THE FALL KILL IT!!

HYAAAAA

FOOM

MRPH?!

HROTH!

WITH A BLAST OF WIND TO SEND IT OVER THE CLIFF'S EDGE, I CAN LET THE FALL KILL IT!!

HYAAAAA

FOOM

MRPH?!

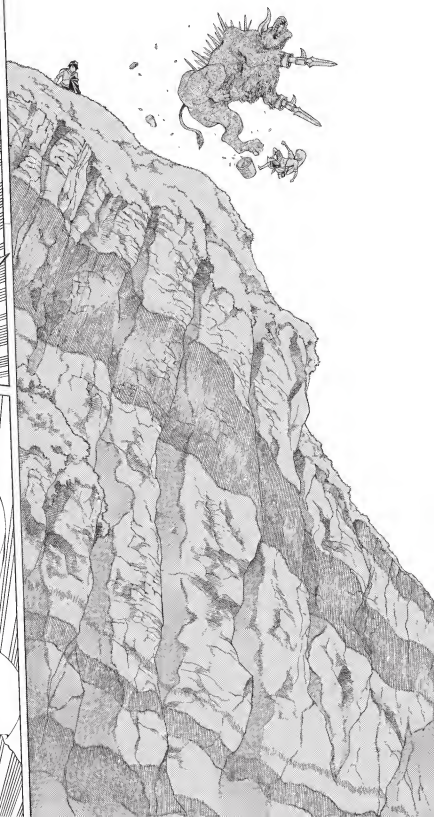
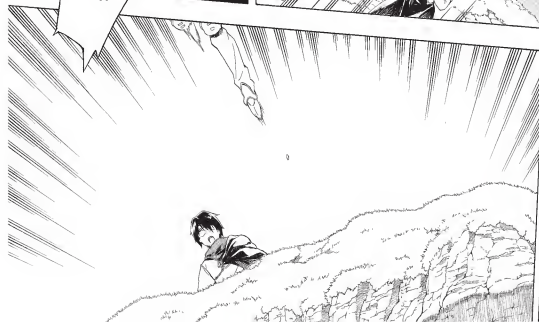
HROTH!





WHY IS
SHE
HERE?!

NO...!

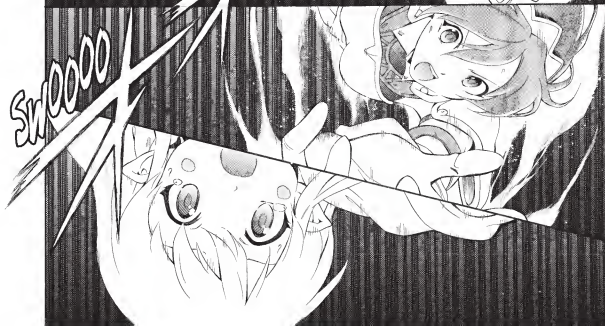


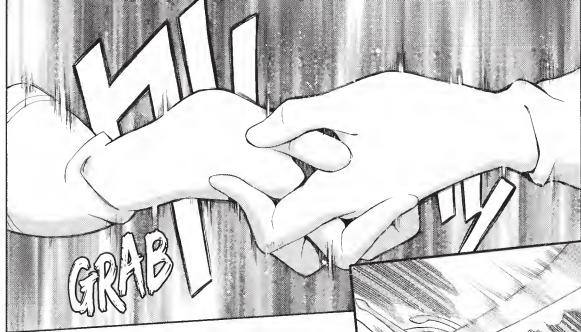


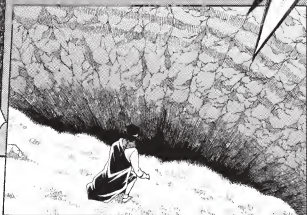
SHOOM

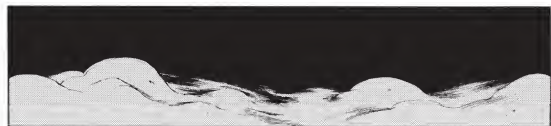
NGH!

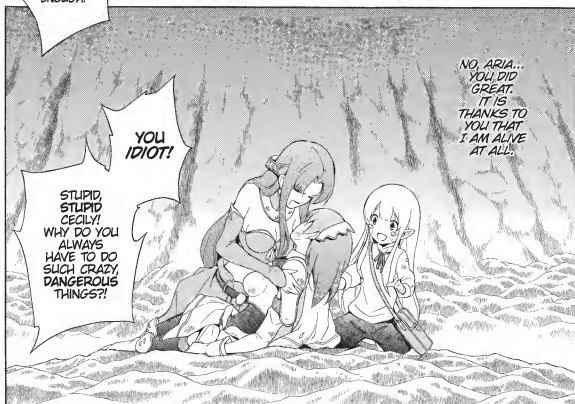
ARIA!













I WILL
NEVER
DO THIS
AGAIN!

ONE
THING
IS
CERTAIN.



MISS
CECILY!



NGK!



DON'T
SAY
THINGS
LIKE
THAT!

I
DIDN'T
INTEND
TO.

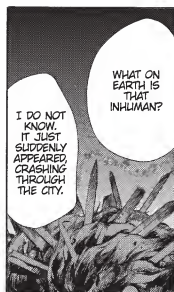
LISA, I'M
SORRY I
DRAGGED
YOU INTO
THIS...

YOU
WERE
THE
ONE
WHO
SAVED
ME!

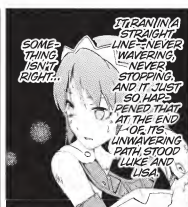
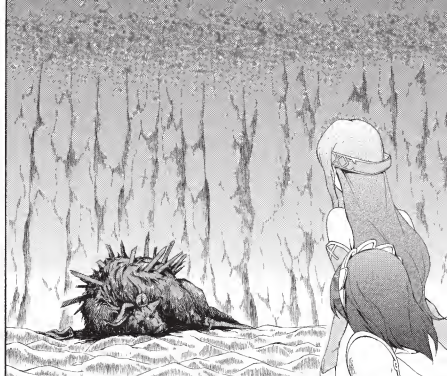


STILL...

NH
...



WHAT ON
EARTH IS
THAT
INHUMAN?







WE
HAVE
TO DO
SOME-
THING!
AT THIS
RATE,
CECILY
IS GOING
TO DIE!!

LUKE
WAS THE
ONE WHO
HAD THE
JEWEL
STEEL TO
KEEP THE
ASH AWAY!

NOW
WHAT
ARE WE
GOING
TO DO?!

CECILY,
HANG
ON!



I CAN TURN
INTO MY
SWORD FORM.
THEN I CAN
USE MY WIND
POWERS TO
KEEP THE ASH
AWAY FROM
HER MOUTH
AND NOSE
UNTIL SHE
RECOVERS!



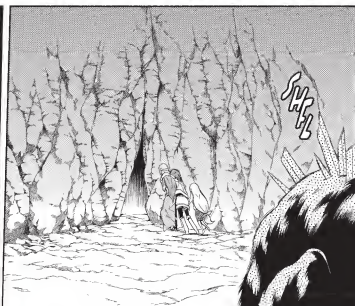
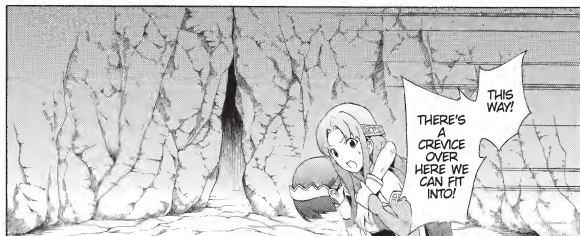
BUT SHE
DID NOT
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT THEY
MEANT.

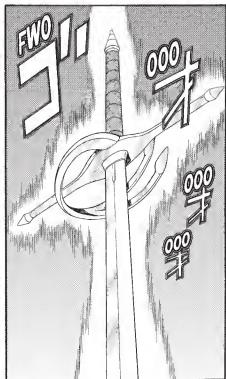
NOR DID
SHE
HAVE THE
LUXURY
OF TIME
TO THINK
THEM
OVER.

LISA,
HURRY!

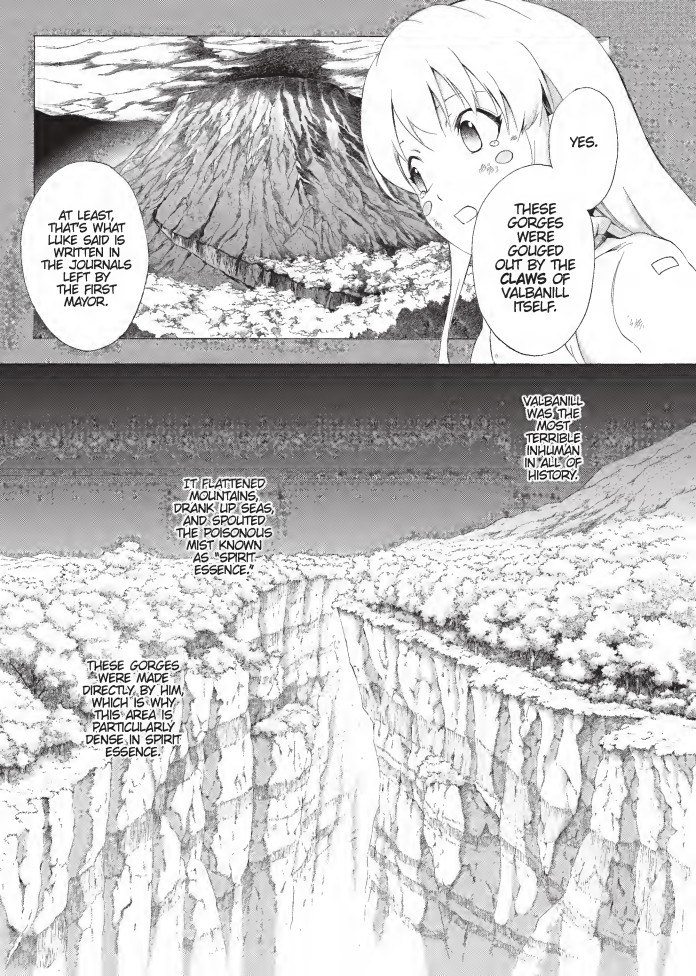
AS A DEMON,
LISA COULD
UNDERSTAND
THE WORDS
THAT THE
BEAST SPOKE.

?!
114









AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT LUKE SAID IS WRITTEN IN THE JOURNALS LEFT BY THE FIRST MAYOR.

YES.

THESE GORGES WERE GOUGED OUT BY THE CLAWS OF VALBANILL ITSELF.

IT FLATTENED MOUNTAINS, DRANK UP SEAS, AND SPOILED THE POISONOUS MIST KNOWN AS "SPIRIT-ESSENCE."

THESE GORGES WERE MADE DIRECTLY BY HIM, WHICH IS WHY THIS AREA IS PARTICULARLY DENSE IN SPIRIT-ESSENCE.

VALBANILL WAS THE MOST TERRIBLE INHUMAN IN ALL OF HISTORY.



YEEP!

JOLT



THEN...

SINCE ARIA
IS A DEMON,
THERE IS
MORE FUEL
HERE FOR
HER TO USE
TO POWER
HER WIND.



I WANT
TO STAY
WITH LUKE
FOR LONGER
YET.

I...



N-
NO...!

I
DON'T
WANNA
DIE!

!



HE EVEN
APOLO-
GIZED
TO ME.

FOR
EVERYTHING
HE DID
THESE LAST
THREE
YEARS.

HE...



WE'VE
FINALLY
BEGINNED
TO UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER,
TOO!



EVEN
MY
LEFT
EYE...

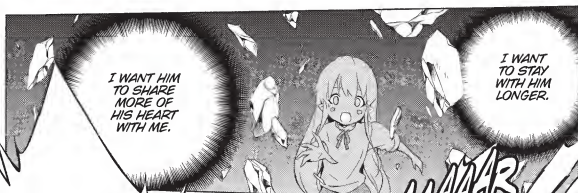
LUKE HAS
GIVEN ME
SO MANY
WONDERFUL
THINGS.

I HAD
ONLY JUST
BEEN BORN.
IT WAS THE
VERY FIRST
TREASURE HE
GAVE TO ME.



CRUMBLE
77

CRUMBLE
77



I WANT HIM
TO SHARE
MORE OF
HIS HEART
WITH ME.

I WANT
TO STAY
WITH HIM
LONGER.

I
WANT
TO
LIVE
!!

ROOOAAAAR





WAIT!
IF YOU
GO
BACK
OUT
THERE,
YOU'LL
DIE!!

I
PROMISE
I WILL
PROTECT
YOU!!

YOU ARE A
CITIZEN OF
THIS CITY.
YOU ARE
MY FRIEND.
YOU ARE AN
IRREPLACEABLE
COMPANION
FOR LIKE.



NO ONE
WILL DIE.
ALL OF US
WILL GO
HOME
TOGETHER,
ALIVE.



THAT IS
WHAT I MEANT
WHEN I
SWORE THAT
I WOULD SAVE
EVERYTHING
WITHIN MY
REACH!

To be continued...

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 ブ ラ ツ ク ス 鍛 治 ミ ス

アトリエ 工房リーザ

atelier Liza **BRANCH OFFICE IV**

These are so amazing!
I wonder if I could
ever draw this well...?



↑ Tokyo, Hiji Kawanoto



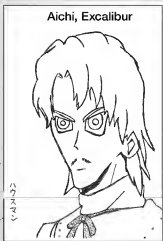
↑ Fukuoka, Kyosuke



↑ Shiga, Yuuki Tamura



↑ Aichi, Hitoshi



Okuyama, Masa Kuboki ↑

It's because of this kind of wonderful support that we're able to try as hard as we do.
I hope you keep sending in this amazing work for me and Cecily!

Thank you for all the great postcards! Everyone who was displayed here will receive a personalized sketch from Yamada-sensei himself! We're still accepting submissions, so keep on sending them in!

Note: Fan Art contest only open to residents in Japan.



A large illustration of Lisa, a young girl with long, light-colored hair and large, expressive eyes. She is wearing a patterned dress with a bow at the neck. She has a cheerful expression, with her mouth open in a smile.

Lisa's

Let's Learn Blacksmithing Corner!

Hi, everyone, I'm Lisa! It's been a while. When the Valbanill Meetings were opened and all of the important people from the various nations showed up, it gives you an idea of just how big Cecily's world is, doesn't it? To shed a little more light on that meeting, in this Corner, I'm going to tell you all about the world of *The Sacred Blacksmith*!

Class #4: The World of The Sacred Blacksmith ~The Continent~

Forty-four years after the Valbanill War—

This volume delved into Luke's past. I also got to understand a little of what he's feeling, which is a big relief to me!

Now, the big meeting Luke was summoned to was one of the "Valbanill Meetings," where all the most powerful people of the continent get together. Way back during the Valbanill Wars, every nation was so desperate for victory, they forced not just their soldiers, but even peasants they dragged off the streets to make Demon Pacts. Battles were fought more by demons than by people. And since demons didn't wear any identifying banners or tabards, nobody knew which one was fighting for which nation, so it was all one big bloody brawl that destroyed towns and villages everywhere.

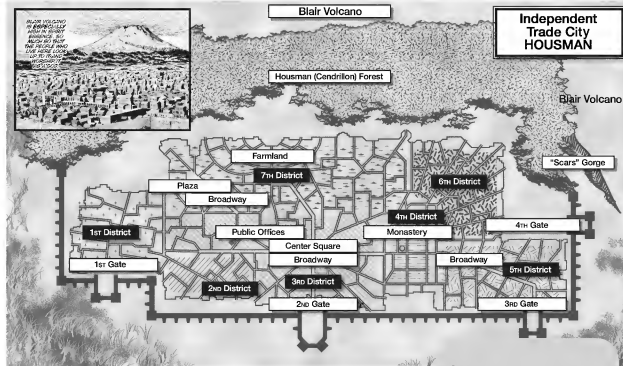
A smaller illustration of Lisa, looking slightly to the side with a thoughtful expression.

The current peace on the continent is because of a really precarious political balance. How are Luke and Miss Cecily going to get involved in it? What will their involvement do? Turn the page for an introduction to the various nations!

After the war, Demon Pacts were outlawed, and everybody concentrated more on rebuilding than anything else. But the real root cause of that war was the inhuman Valbanill—and the seal keeping him in check was beginning to break! The day would come soon when the seal would vanish completely, so the three major nations and one independent trade city got together and formed what is now called the "Valbanill Meetings" to plan what to do about it. Though from what it looks like now, each nation is spending more time figuring out how they're going to get their hands on the Sacred Blade than anything else.

But before we dig any deeper into that, what are the three major nations? And what kind of place is the "Independent" Trade City? Let's take a look!





That's where I work! It's on the edge of the 7th District, near the Candillon Forest.

[Aelster Liza]

The city's graveyard is in the 6th district. Jack Strader and Lisa Oakwood were laid to rest there.

[Common Cemetery]

Each district has its own municipal buildings, but the Mayor has his public offices in the 3rd District, in the middle of the city.

[Public Offices]

The Market is a festival that happens once every three months. Each district—except the 7th, which is only farmland—gets to host it in turn. The biggest attraction is always the Auction! Even Aria was put on sale there once.



Okay, let me tell you a little about the Independent Trade City of Housman, where we live. It's the only independent city-state on the whole continent! The first Housman founded it and, to keep it out of all the pointless wars, declared it a trading center, independent of all nations. Today, it's peaceful and more prosperous than ever!

[The Market]

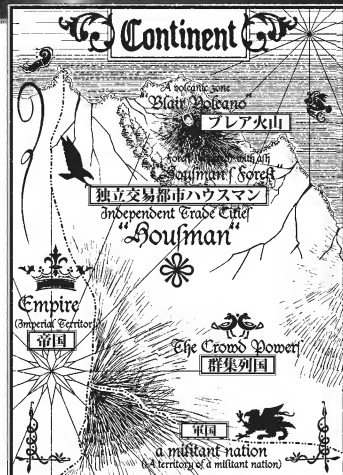
Don't forget, continental law forbids spreading this kind of map around, so don't show it to anybody else, okay?

First, we find out the seal on Valbanil is weakening. Next, there's the Empress's Siegfried and what he's up to... so many mysteries! I can hardly wait to read what happens next!

See You Next Time!

That's the official name for what everybody calls the Candillon Forest, which is sandwiched between the city and Blair Volcano. The air there is always full of ash from the volcano, but because of all the spirit essence, the forest survives without being smothered. I'm a demon, so I can go in there just fine, but regular people like Luke and Miss Cecily can't breathe the air in it for too long without getting "essence-drunk." Also, the high level of spirit essence in the forest keeps all the ash from the volcano inside and above it, preventing it from spreading over the city.

[Housman Forest]



A nation ruled by the Emperor and his bloodline, each of whom has the initial "E" as a sign of their rank.



SIEGFRIED
Captain, Imperial Knights



AUGUSTUS ARTHUR
Commander, Imperial Knights

The Empire

As its name suggests, it is a militant nation where all children, boy or girl, begin military service at age 10.



AERYN IRVING
Militant Nation

Also strongly influencing the continent after the War were the secret documents left behind by the first Housman.

He was the one who invented Prayer Pacts, a way to use spirit essence without the terrible results of Demon Pacts. His papers also revealed the existence of Valbanil and the Sacred Blade. Learning of that, the three major nations, along with the Independent Trade City, created regular meetings on the subject, called the "Valbanil Meetings."

Not a single entity, the Crow Powers is a collection of small, independent states. They still skirmish with each other for power.



LANCEOT DOUGLAS
Representative, Crow Powers

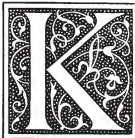
Independent Trade City

Several towns banded together to form the City. Each town is labeled as one of seven "districts." Each district has its own residential, market, and municipal quarters.



Depth The Nations of The Sacred Blacksmith

Though continental law forbids the publication of world maps, I managed to find one just for you! Let's take a look at the major nations of the world!



A Lazy Afterword



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Game Addict
MURAYAMA-SAN**



**Dragon-Quest
Monsters:
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NAKAMURA-SAN**



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<http://www.yamadakotaro.com>



**Serious Slugabed
OYONE-SAN**

**Amazing
Water-Boiler
YANAGII-KUN**



CECILY'S
HEADSTRONG
BRAVERY,
BOLSTERED BY
HER YOUTHFUL
IGNORANCE AND
ENTHUSIASM.

I WAS REALLY
IMPRESSED WITH
HOW POWERFUL A
STORY ARC IT WAS
IN THE NOVELS...

THE
BITTERSWEET
BOND
BETWEEN
LUKE
AND THE
ORIGINAL
LISA.

THIS
VOLUME,
WE DELVED
INTO THE
SECRETS
OF CERTAIN
CHARACTERS,
AS WELL
AS OF THE
WORLD
ITSELF.

AND CRAP!
I JUST
NOTICED I'M
PUTTING NEW
VOLUMES
OF THIS OUT
ONE MONTH
LATER EACH
TIME.

THAT'S
NO
GOOD!



HI, I'M
YAMADA.
BOY, IS
IT HOT
OUT!

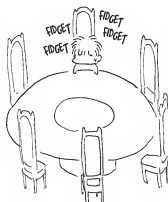
**IT'S BEEN
6 MONTHS!**

IN FACT, AS SOON
AS I'M DONE
WORKING, I GO
OUT AND RUN
AROUND A BIG,
GRASSY PLAIN FOR
A WHILE. FOR
MORE ACTION! IT'S
ALWAYS INCREDIBLY
REFRESHING!

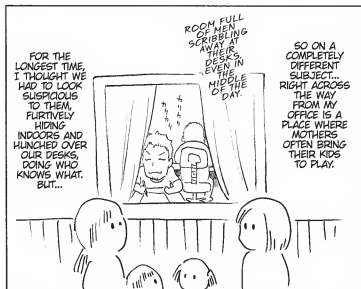
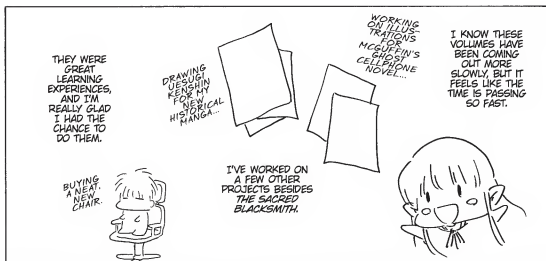
AH, SO
YOU
MEAN
RUN
AROUND
INSIDE
OF A
VIDEO
GAME.



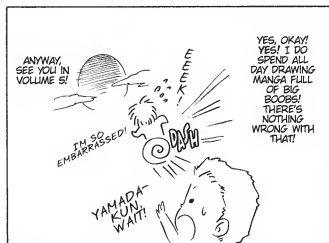
SO IN
CHAPTER 17,
I BROUGHT
IN SOME
MONSTERS
AND SOME
ACTION
FOR A
REFRESHING
CHANGE
OF PACE!
BOY, DID
IT FEEL
GOOD!



BUT IT WAS
ALSO ONE
REEFULLY
LONG MEETING
SCENE.
I KINDA
WANT A LITTLE
MORE MOTION
GOING ON
WHEN I'M
DRAWING A
MANGA.



*Haganai: I Don't Have Many Friends Vol. 2, Chapter 7.



SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

THE SACRED BLACKSMITH

art by **KOTARO YAMADA** / story by **ISAO MIURA**

Original Character Designs by LUNA

VOLUME 4

TRANSLATION
Adrienne Beck

ADAPTATION
Janet Houck

LETTERING
Roland Amago

LAYOUT
Bambi Eloriaga-Amago

COVER DESIGN
Nicky Lim

PROOFREADER
Shanti Whitesides

MANAGING EDITOR
Adam Arnold

PUBLISHER
Jason DeAngelis

THE SACRED BLACKSMITH VOL. 4

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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!

